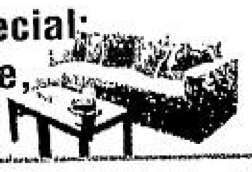
■ LIFESTYLE/I1
Quarterly Special: Limited space, utmost living



■ WORLD/A28
Iconic Empire State bldg in New York City turns 75

■ NEWS/A10
GMA heckler leads S. Tagalog protest marchers

■ METRO/A24
4 latest 'reflection spots' on the road to Antipolo for Marian pilgrims

Globe's latest mobile tech: Talk, see and be seen

By Abigail L. Ho

WHEN OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWS) get homesick, a phone call to loved ones back home is a sure way to make them smile.

What if they could see their loved ones' smiling faces via a video call? What if the video call had the same rate as an international voice call? *(See Globe Supplement.)*

GLOBE'S/A6

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Sunday, April 30, 2006 ★★ 14 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 141 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Army officers not amused by Sgt. Pacman's KO look

By Dona Pazzibugan

IT'S A KNOCKOUT LOOK—but some military officers don't think so.

Boxing idol Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao's un-military look when he visited Philippine Army headquarters last Thursday

ARMY/A8

NGII, NAGPARANG NPA!

Palace sets 1017 powers

Emergency decree to be imposed if rallies turn into armed threat

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
and Dona Pazzibugan

AS MILITANT GROUPS MOBILIZED for massive Labor Day protests, Malacañang yesterday threatened to reimpose an emergency decree if demonstrations turned into an armed challenge against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Ms Arroyo is taking no chances.

She has called an emergency meeting of the Cabinet security cluster for early tomorrow morning so that all her advisers would be around should she decide to issue a declaration similar to Presidential Proclamation No. 1017, Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor told the INQUIRER.

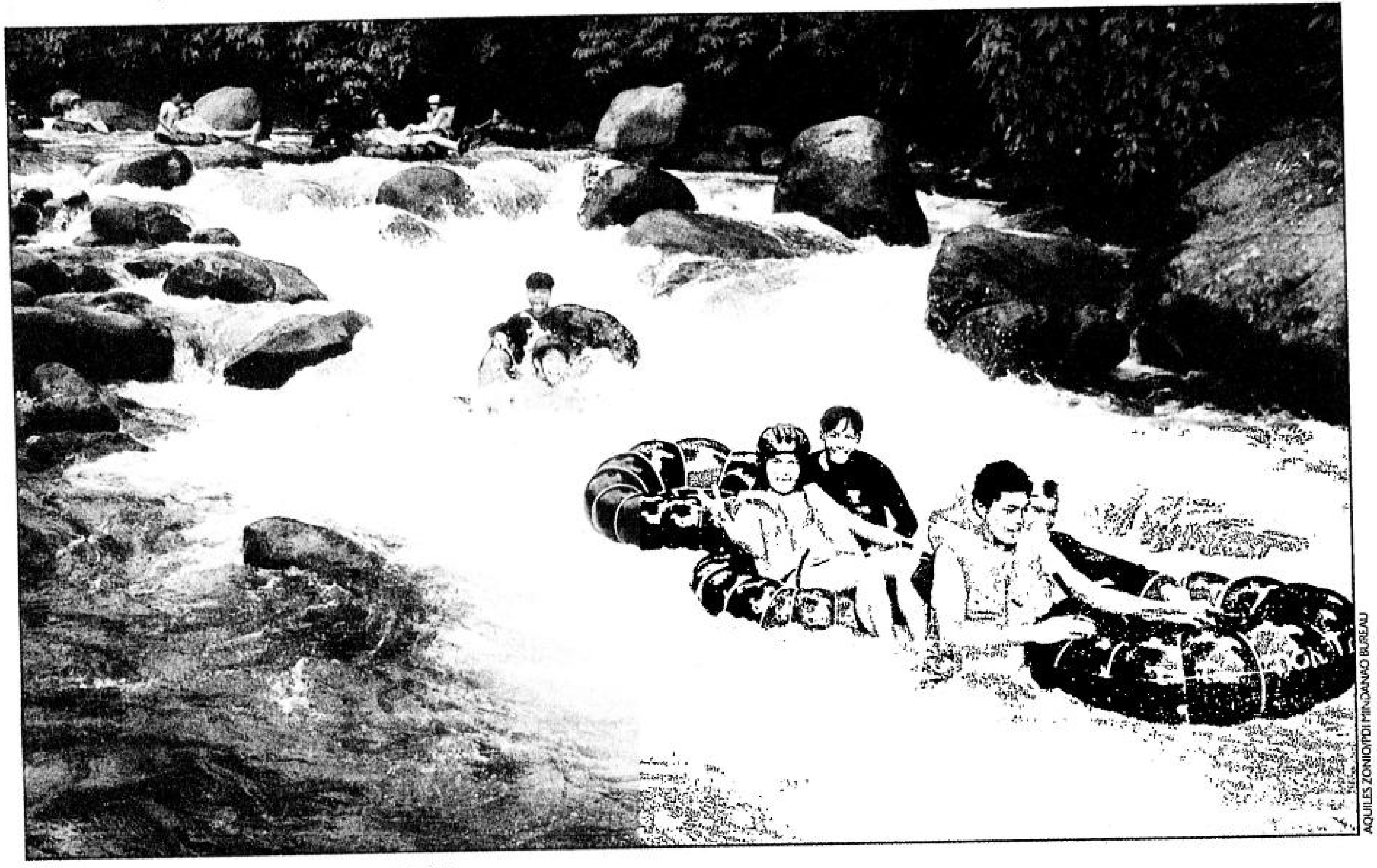
The Philippine National Police has also placed its forces in Metro Manila on the highest state of alert, starting at dawn today.

Defensor said an emergency declaration would take the same form as PP 1017, Ms Arroyo's legal weapon against coup plotters which she imposed for one week on Feb. 24 and whose constitutionality is being questioned before the Supreme Court.

"It will be the same draft, it will have the same basis, and the President will have the same powers," Defensor said.

Leftist groups are planning to mobilize from 20,000 to 30,000 protesters in Metro Manila tomorrow. The number will apparently include workers and farmers from Southern Tagalog provinces who have begun a march to link up with their counter-

PALACE/A10


AQUILES ZONIO/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

SUMMERTIME AND THE LIVING IS GOOD
The Pangi River in Maitum town, Sarangani, with its clean, clear waters downstreaming against a backdrop of lush vegetation is considered one of the best white water tubing destinations in the province. It is a 1.6-km. run snaking past huge boulders, six drop points or rapids, and roots of trees before winding up at a dam site. *(Story on Page A21.)*

To the wonders of Internet, add fundraiser for sick kids

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—ADD FUND-RAISING for ailing children to the wonders wrought by the Internet.

Last month a woman who goes by the chat nickname "Igorota" auctioned herself off online for a date. The winning bidder ultimately stood her up, but she made P2,050 for her trouble.

Another woman who calls herself "Jimili" offered her services online as a one-day maid—and drew a bigger amount of P5,000.

The two Baguio-based women continued to hide behind their chat-room names even when the money they earned became part of a donation to finance the operation of 9-year-old Santy John Tuyan, who is afflicted with a heart ailment.

But the anonymity is just fine for a group of Good Samaritans mounting concerts for the benefit of needy residents of the summer capital.

Musician Conrad Marzan, a country-western star in Baguio, and Ramon Dacawi, city public information officer, have staged more than 100 concerts in the last 14 years to raise funds for children in need of medication or hospital care.

Marzan said they had never considered the Internet until March, when they were enticed by a pitch to go online.

That was the time a report on Santy Tuyan's plight was posted on the Internet by the online newspaper Baguio City dot Com (hosted by www.baguiocity.com).

Jerry Mayona, administrator of the online paper, recalled that Dacawi brought Santy's condition to his attention in February.

So he posted a news item on Santy, along with a letter from his mother, Jacinta, who provided details of her child's

TO THE WONDERS/A8

Like any two people in love, Dennis, Grace walk down the aisle

By Volt Contreras

HE DIGS THE "OLDIES," SHE HUMS THE TOP 10. HE likes checkered shirts; she hates them. He's mad about action-packed computer games; she's cozy with Solitaire.

But an odd couple they're not. They both like things blue. Each finds the other patient, yet *seloso* (prone to jealousy). And both have spent their lives on crutches fitted with wheels, right up to the altar where they exchanged marriage vows.

A man and a woman born with cerebral palsy and who have been waging an advocacy for persons with disabilities (PWD) tied the knot yesterday at the Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine in Quezon City, allowing the INQUIRER to take part in the celebration and help them spread a sim-

LIKE ANY/A8

ROMY HOMILLADA

NOT EXACTLY MARCHING down the aisle but Dennis Ilagan, vice president of the Cerebral Palsy Association of the Philippines, and his bride Grace Salazar say, "Don't focus on our disability but what we can do."

Inquirer still No. 1, survey affirms

THE READERS HAVE SPOKEN.

With an estimated 1,516,000 daily readers nationwide, the Philippine Daily Inquirer is still the country's No. 1 newspaper, according to the latest survey by Nielsen Media Research.

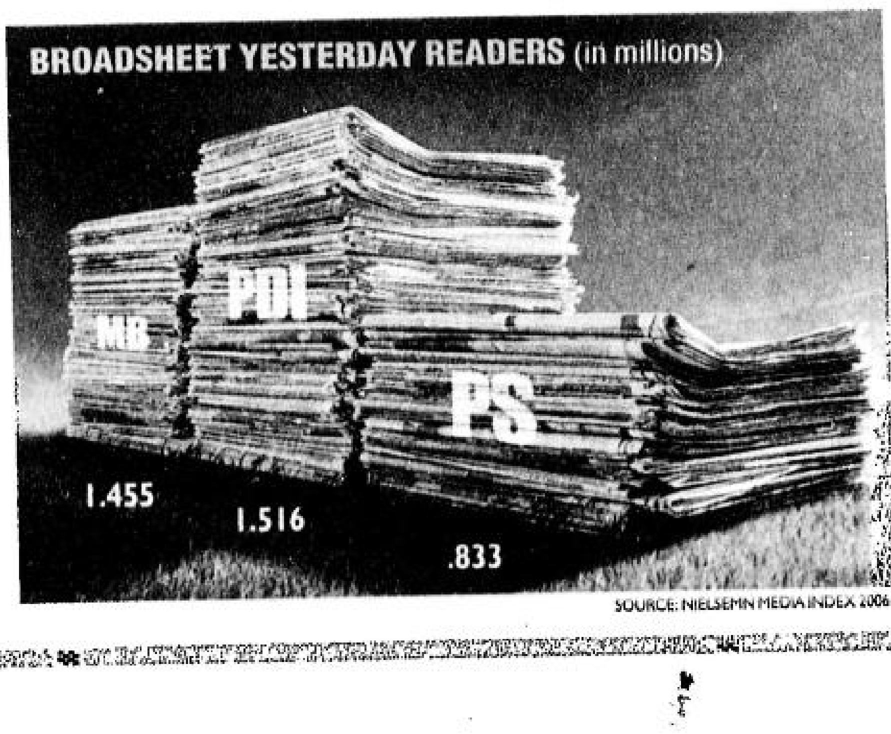
The same survey, called the "Media Index" ranked Manila Bulletin second with an estimated 1.455 million readers and Philippine Star a far third with about 833,000 readers nationwide.

The survey was conducted in February this year among 2,500 respondents aged 10 years and older from all socioeconomic classes in Metro Manila and 20 cities in the rest of Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao.

The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

"We are happy and proud of the fact

INQUIRER/A6



SOURCE: NIELSEMN MEDIA INDEX 2006

Applause, thanks for the man everyone called 'Uncle Bob'

By Fe Zamora

WITH A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE, family members and friends of Philippine television pioneer Robert Stewart expressed eternal thanks "for everything" and bade farewell to the man everyone called "Uncle Bob."

Stewart founded GMA Network Inc. in 1950 when he beamed his first radio transmission over the AM airwaves from a makeshift radio station at the back of a bakery in Angeles City, Pampanga. Ten years later, the Republic Broadcasting System would branch out into television, giving rise to the giant GMA Network Inc.

Stewart passed away on April 6 in Phoenix, Arizona. The urn containing his ashes was flown back to the Philippines last week as it was his request.

Yesterday, the urn was entombed at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina where his wife, Loreto, is also buried.

"He left us with good memories. I think we are very fortunate to have had him," said Stewart's son, Jody.

Jody is second to the youngest child of Stewart and Loreto. His siblings are Nida, Vali and Leslie. Stewart also left behind 15 grandchildren.

Jody said his father's life revolved around broadcasting. In fact, when Jody was born, his father had to rush from the hospital to the station "because that day they turned on the transmitter," he said.

Stewart made his first radio transmission on March 1, 1950, Jody's birthday.

APPLAUSE/A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will continue to experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: SHERRILYN JOYCE ANG, PDI RESEARCH/04/30/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONTPAGE

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Cha-cha backers unfazed by Cory et al.

By Blanche S. Rivera and Nancy Carvajal

PROPONENTS OF THE SO-CALLED PEOPLE'S initiative to amend the Constitution said yesterday they were unfazed by the new anti-Cha-cha coalition led by former President Corazon Aquino, even as three other associations announced the formation of a movement opposed to rushing constitutional amendments before a clean-up at the Commission on Elections.

Sigaw ng Bayan spokesperson Raul Lambino said local government units had pledged to mobilize people for a plebiscite to ratify the changes to the Constitution and they were ready to take on Aquino's "STOP (Sa Tamang Oras at Paraan) Cha-cha" movement.

"We don't feel threatened," Lambino said at the Kapihan sa Sulo forum yesterday. "Let's see if they can derail Charter change."

Sigaw ng Bayan, a coalition of 300 organizations pushing for Charter change, claims to have gathered at least 8.3 million signatures for a people's initiative.

The signatures would be submitted to the Comelec on May 22 to show that there is a clamor for constitutional amendments, and that the Comelec should call for a plebiscite to approve the amendments.

Battle lines drawn

STOP Cha-Cha, launched by Aquino, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona and other opposition, religious and militant leaders before the weekend, said it was mounting a campaign to recall the signatures gathered by Sigaw ng Bayan.

"The battle lines have now been drawn: it is now a fight between the *yagit*, or the small people of our society who have previously had no voice or means to chart their own political destiny, and the elite, composed of a ragtag group that wants to continue imposing their whims and caprices," Lambino said.

Meanwhile, the Institute for Studies in Asian Church and Culture, the Kapatiran sa Pangkalahatang Kabutihan (KPK) and the National Council of Churches in the Philippines said they had come together to form the National Action for Political Renewal and Stability or Napras. Leaders of the group include Nandy Pacheco of The Gunless Society fame.

"We hope to fill the gap for a missing people power which at the moment has taken the distorted form of a people's initiative for railroading the Charter change," said KPK president Johnny Cardenas.

Clean up Comelec

He said the movement was focusing its advocacy on cleaning up the Comelec before any constitutional amendments were undertaken.

"No other demands shall be made by the group except to say No to Cha-cha and the people's initiative and to express a lack of confidence in the current leadership of the Comelec," Cardenas said.

The group plans to hold candle light assemblies on three successive Saturdays starting May 6 at the Quezon Memorial Circle.

No banners, politicos

"To distinguish it from other rallies, there will be no banners of participating organizations, no shouting and no politicians on stage," Cardenas said.

Pacheco said other groups were welcome to join the movement "as long as they follow the movement's rules.."

Senate President Franklin Drilon, one of the STOP Cha-Cha leaders, said the anti-Charter change drive would derail Ms Arroyo's people's initiative.

"We will continue to oppose the people's initiative because it is illegal and deceptive. We will avail of all means available to us," Drilon said, adding that more sectors were expected to join STOP Cha-cha.

All about control

In another related development, Malacañang said yesterday that the people opposed to Charter change would change their minds if they had control of the process.

"It is obvious that even the anti-reform sector acknowledges the need for changes in our Constitution so we could address the problem of too much politicking that has hindered national progress," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said. "But they refuse to join this genuine people's initiative for constitutional reforms because they fear losing control over the entire process."

Bunye was reacting to the formation of the new anti-Cha-cha coalition.

He said the President remained confident that "the people will succeed in their desire for genuine reforms in our political system."

'Aquino has lost her hold'

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez has downplayed the capabilities of the new coalition, saying that Aquino had lost her hold on the "yellow crowd."

But he acknowledged that temporary restraining orders issued by the courts against the Comelec verifying the signatures collected by Sigaw ng Bayan could slow down the whole process.

"If *pirma* falters, we can get con-ass, or vice versa," he said, referring to the plan to covert Congress into a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution and pave the way for the establishment of a unicameral parliamentary system. *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Armand N. Nocum*

GMA says she favors cutting tariffs on oil imports

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau
and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
in Manila

BACOLOD CITY—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo favors a tariff cut on imported oil products to help lower the price of fuel in the domestic market.

"Reduction of tariff on oil is so far the best option we can undertake in a calibrated scale to cushion the impact of the spiraling oil prices in the world market without prejudicing economic growth or foregoing vital pro-poor programs," the President said here yesterday.

Under the government's plan, tariffs on oil imports would be reduced to between 2 percent and 0 percent within the next few weeks.

The tariff cut would mean foregone revenues of up to P2.5 billion.

Ms Arroyo, who spoke at the Vice Mayors League of the Philippines conference here, also called on local executives to help in easing the pressure on oil prices.

She also asked them to help in promoting the use of oil substitutes like ethanol, auto gas and coco diesel.

"Let us also all plant jethropha together in our towns and cities," she urged, saying it was a perfect and 100 percent substitute and the fuel of the future that will open up new lands for agri-business.

President Arroyo invited town and city councils to participate in the jetropha program by allocating counterpart funds.

She said she had ordered the Philippine National Oil Corp. Petrochemical Corp. be converted into the PNOC Biofuel Corp. and allocated P500 million to promote the cultivation of jethropha, whose seeds can be a perfect substitute for diesel fuel.

Jetropha is a perennial crop that grows in arid regions. The oil extracted from the jatropha seed has the same characteristics as diesel.

She also cited the promotion of ethanol production from sugarcane in Negros Occidental as part of her administration's efforts to develop alternative sources of fuel for the country.

In Manila, an economic adviser to Ms Arroyo has proposed that all increases in the prices of petroleum products should not be covered by the 12 percent value added tax (VAT) on oil in order not to further add to the burden on consumers.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda said that collecting a fixed amount on petroleum products would mean a virtual return to an excise tax system for petroleum which was more appropriate at this time of widely gyrating crude oil prices.

"We should retain the tax per liter by exempting new price increases from the 12 percent. That means freezing it (the tax) at these levels. Eventually, we should revert to an excise tax as oil prices are too volatile," Salceda said.

By pegging the tax on oil to a fixed amount, the government would get the revenue boost it expected from oil sales while giving consumers partial relief from rising oil prices.

Salceda earlier proposed the suspension of the 12-percent VAT on oil for the next eight months to calm the "silent rage" of consumers against the spiraling cost of fuel, power and basic goods.

But Ms Arroyo stood firm on her Cabinet's decision to keep the oil tax.

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1. College **Transcript of Scholastic Records**. However, if the applicant is graduating on March 2006, an official copy of temporary transcript containing college records from first year up to the first semester of the fourth year should be submitted instead;

2. **Two (2) 2½" x 2½" colored ID pictures;**

3. **Two (2) Certificates of Good Moral Character with school seal:**

    a. For UST graduates, one of the certificates should come from OSA and one from the Dean of the previous college;

    b. For non-UST graduates, one from the Guidance office or its equivalent and one from the Dean of previous college;

    c. Applicants who are working must submit an additional Certificate of Good Moral Character issued by the current employer.

4. **Application and Testing fee**; and

5. **Duly accomplished application forms.** The forms will be issued by the Dean's office only upon submission of **ALL THE REQUIREMENTS.**

NOTE:
ALL requirements must be submitted one (1) week before the examination day

APPLICATION SCHEDULE:
Monday thru Friday (9-12 NN; 1-4 PM); Office of the Dean

EXAMINATION SCHEDULES:
8-12 AM - March 17, April 17 and May 5, 2006

VENUE OF EXAMINATION:
Reading Room of the Faculty of Civil Law, Ground Floor, UST Main Building.

FOR INQUIRIES:
SEE THE DEAN'S OFFICE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE at www.ust.edu.ph, click on academics or call 731-4027 or 7313101 local 8225.

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School Placement & Scholarships Branch
Scholarships Section,
3rd Level, Podium Block
1 North Buona Vista Drive
Singapore 138675

More information on the scholarship and request for application forms can be obtained through our website at:
http://www.moe.gov.sg/aseanscholarships/

Request for application forms by post from the Singapore Embassy must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope (at least 16cm by 23cm). The envelopes should be marked 'ASEAN Scholarships for the Philippines' at the top left-hand corner.

Closing Date

Completed application forms, together with relevant supporting documents, must reach the Singapore Ministry of Education by **June 9, 2006**

THERE IS NO BOND ATTACHED TO THE SCHOLARSHIP

We regret that incomplete applications and/or applications received after the closing date will not be entertained.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to sit for a selection test in July and attend an interview in August 2006. Successful candidates will arrive in Singapore in early November to attend a Mathematics bridging course before joining Singapore schools in January 2007.

Wage boards studying pay increase issues

By Jerome Aning

THE NATIONAL WAGES AND PRODUCTIVITY Commission yesterday said the 17 Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Boards (RTWPB) were monitoring and reviewing wage conditions in the country.

NWPC officer in charge Executive Director Rebecca Calzado said the wage boards "are currently studying the wage issues" raised by the different labor groups on wage orders issued last year.

But an official of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) yesterday rejected wage adjustments through the wage boards and called on workers to directly negotiate with management for pay increases.

"It is better left to the companies to decide and work out with their employees how much wage increment they can give," said Ecop governor Donald Dee, who is also president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Earlier, the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines said it would ask for a P70 across-the-board daily wage increase. Militant labor groups such as the Kilusang Mayo Uno are pushing for a legislated P125-wage hike.

Dee said employers' representatives in the wage boards would most likely reject any wage hike.

"We will try to settle issues within the RTWPBs," he said. "However, if we don't agree, we will most likely have a 'Nay' vote recorded."

The Ecop official added that even the Catholic Church's view that employers had the ability to grant wage hikes was incorrect.

"Companies are really in dire straits these times; few are really earning while the rest are fighting for their survival," he said. "If workers press for a wage hike, many companies would be forced to downsize and this would lead to more people without work."

Calzado echoed Dee's sentiments, saying that "while the policy of minimum wage fixing is to protect the purchasing power of lower-income workers, it is also aimed at preserving existing jobs."

In the National Capital Region, the minimum wage stands at P325 per day after the RTWPB-NCR granted a P25 increase in the basic wage on June 16, 2005.

Congress last enacted a minimum wage law in 1989. Since then, it has delegated the power to fix the minimum wage to RTWPBs.

Meanwhile, President Macapagal-Arroyo will distribute scholarships and training certificates to those wishing to apply at call centers and other cyber services firms.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said Ms Arroyo would distribute the first 10,000 of the total 100,000 scholarship certificates during rites at Malacañang.

Memberships in unions down

THE NUMBER OF WORKERS JOINING LAbor unions in the Philippines is declining due to new work arrangements, the National Mediation and Conciliation Board said.

NCMB said only around 12 percent or 1.9 million of the 16 million formal sector workers were members of unions or organized labor groups compared to the number of union members in the 1970s.

"This is because of new work arrangements and the global economy. More people would rather be independent contractors or entrepreneurs than employees," NCMB executive director Hans Cacdac said at the Kapihan sa Sulo forum yesterday.

When asked if contractualization was a reason for the declining union membership, Cacdac said it was one part of the new work arrangements.

"This is not just in the Philippines. The declining union (membership) is a global phenomenon," he said, adding that there were advantages to it in this era of a global economy.

Trade Union Congress of the Philippines spokesperson Alex Aguilar admitted that it was difficult to organize workers because 99 percent of all employers in the country were small- and medium-scale enterprises.

Blanche S. Rivera

Labor Day pay guidelines issued

By Jerome Aning

LABOR DAY, WHICH FALLS ON MONDAY, IS A regular holiday nationwide with those reporting for work entitled to extra pay, according to the Department of Labor and Employment.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said yesterday in a circular issued to private sector employers that the following rules should be observed on the regular holiday of May 1:

If the day is an employee's regular workday and the day is unworked, he or she should be paid 100 percent of his or her regular salary for that day;

If the day is worked, the employee should be paid 200 percent of his rate for the first eight hours and an additional 30 percent of the hourly rate in excess of eight hours of work;

If the day falls on an employee's rest day and is unworked, he or she should be paid on that day.

However, if the day is worked, the employee shall be paid 200 percent of his daily rate plus 30 percent. For work in excess of eight hours, he shall be paid an additional 30 percent of the hourly rate on that day.

The country celebrates tomorrow its 104th Labor Day. The first Labor Day was marked by the country's first workers' union, the Union Obrero Democratica de Filipinas, in 1903.

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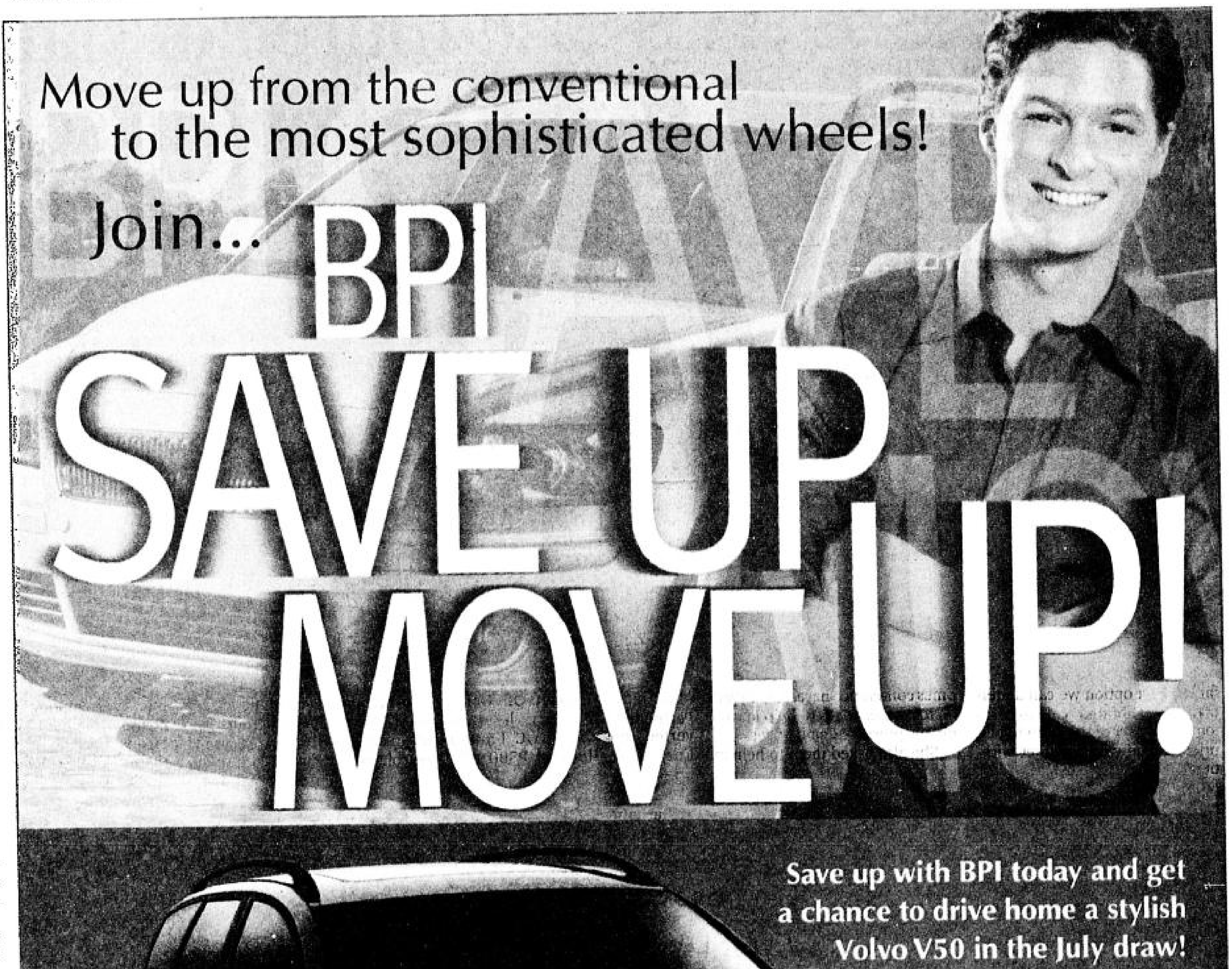

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Parents to sue pre-need firms all over country

By Alcuin Papa

HOLDERS OF FAILED EDUCATION PLANS said yesterday they were determined to file "syndicated estafa" charges in courts all over the country against the owners of pre-need companies who had failed to pay for the tuition and other school fees of their children as provided for under the plans.

Philip Piccio, president of the Parents Enabling Parents Coalition, told a general assembly of plan holders that the move was meant to compel pre-need companies to honor and pay their obligations as spelled out in the education plans they had enticed the public to purchase.

"Let's sue each and every officer of every pre-need company in courts from Aparri to Jolo," Piccio told the assembly. "We are not out for vengeance; we just want them to honor their obligations to us."

Pointing out the need for concerted action and "one voice," Piccio added, "The reality is that we are all alone because we cannot depend on government agencies and most of the politicians."

About 4,000 holders of plans sold by such companies as Pacific Plans Inc. (PPI), College Assurance Plan, Platinum Plans, Capitol and The Professional Group attended the assembly at the St. Paul College gym in Pasig City.

Piccio estimated that up to two million students and their parents were affected by the failure of pre-need companies to pay their obligations under the education plans which the companies claimed had failed because of sharply higher tuition increases and other "financial difficulties."

Last Wednesday, Piccio and a group of PPI plan holders filed "syndicated estafa" charges at the Manila prosecutor's office against PPI directors and officers led by tycoon Alfonso Yuchengco. Other people named in the suit included Helen Yuchengco Dee, Alfonso Yuchengco III, Alfonso Yuchengco Jr., Yvonne Yuchengco and Susanne Yuchengco-Santos.

As defined by Marcos-era Presidential Decree 1689, "syndicated estafa" is fraud committed by five or more people and is punishable with life imprisonment or death.

The complaint charged that PPI "pretended that they had the capacity to honor their contractual obligations and assume the risks inherent in their open-ended plans and were able to induce members of the general public to part with their hard-earned money to purchase them."

It said PPI "self-engineered and artificially contrived their state of 'financial distress.'"

PPI president Alfredo J. Non denied that PPI had misled the public. He said in a statement that "sky-rocketing tuition and other school fees" had placed the company in financial constraints.

"This put an enormous pressure on the corresponding trust funds of the open-ended education plans," he said, adding this was the reason PPI discontinued open-ended plans as early as 1992.

He added that PPI opted for financial rehabilitation, under conditions approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission, to enable it "somehow to meet its obligations."

THE CHILDREN of slain Filipino journalists who are recipients of scholarships from the British-based Bevil Mabey Study Foundation, the Kasangga ng Kaunlaran and the NUJP pose with British Ambassador Peter Beckingham (standing at center).

REM ZAMORA

Children of slain scribes find hope in scholarships

By Tina G. Santos

KRISSIA JANE BINUNGCAL, 14, AND Kint Christian Hector Ureta, 8, were happy enough to have finished second year high school and grade one, respectively, with honors, but they would have been happier still if their fathers were still around.

Krissia and Kint are among the children of journalists whose lives have been shattered after their fathers or mothers were murdered.

Krissia's father, Romeo Binungcal, was on his way to their home in Pilar, Bataan, when he was gunned down in September 2004.

Three years earlier, Kint's father, Rolando Ureta, was shot dead in Lezo town, 7 km west of Kalibo, Aklan.

"I strive hard to do good in school so that my father would be proud of me," Krissia said.

She said that school work was hard, but added that she found comfort in knowing that many people have been helping her and her family cope with the loss of a loved one.

Krissia and Kint are among those able to return to school after being awarded scholarships offered to children of journalists killed in the last 20 years.

"I'm thankful for the help that was extended to us. I could never thank [the organizations involved in the program] enough," Krissia said.

Both are among the eight college, nine high school and 16 grade school students chosen to comprise the first batch of beneficiaries of the Scholarship Program of the British-based Bevil Mabey Study Foundation (BMSF), the Kasangga ng Kaunlaran (KsK) and the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP).

"This doesn't mean that justice has been done to the victims but I hope it will ease the difficulties for those they have left behind. It also doesn't mean that the search for justice can now be stopped," the NUJP, which run the scholarship program, said.

The group is also monitoring the 76 cases of the Filipino journalists who have been killed since 1986.

The scholars are provided a subsidy equivalent to public school rates, to cover tuition and other fees for the elementary, high school and college levels. They are also given monthly allowances.

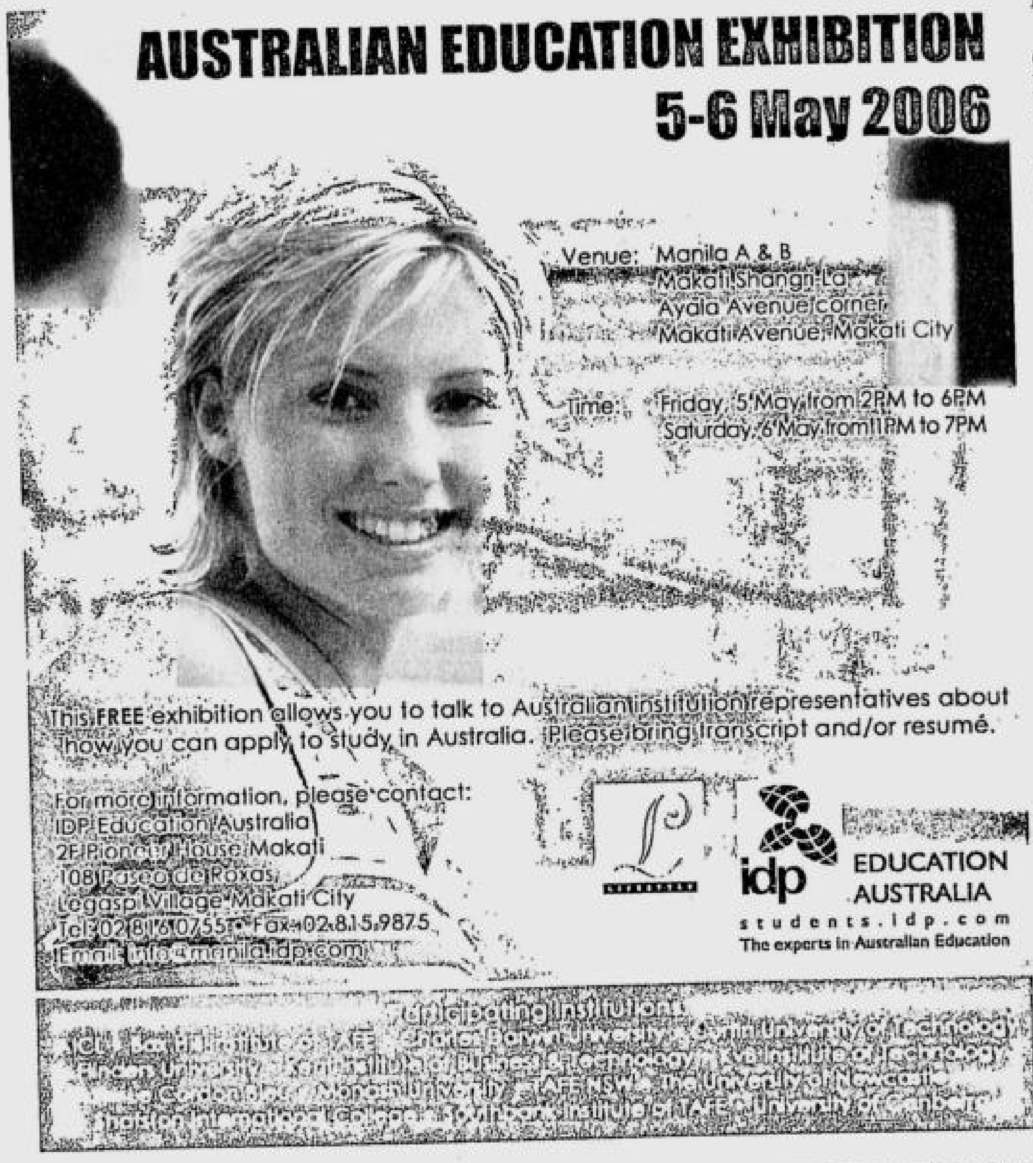
"I'm very thankful that my four children have been granted a scholarships. This is a big help for me in getting them to pursue their education. With the grant, I can concentrate on finding ways to meet our daily expenses," said Elvie Sanchez, widow of Romeo Sanchez who was killed in March 2005.

The death of Sanchez traumatized his eldest child, Arantxa Karizzah, 14. She said her father's death had made her hesitant about pursuing a course in journalism when she gets to college.

"After what happened to my father, I'm still thinking about it," said Arantxa, who added she used to write for her school paper. "Right now, I just want justice for my father."

Jose Tumbokon, Kasangga chair, said the government and the private sector would do well to take part in helping children of slain journalists.

"We look forward to more businessmen and other sectors getting involved in similar initiatives. This is a step we should take not only for the oppressed families of murdered journalists but for the betterment of our society," he said.



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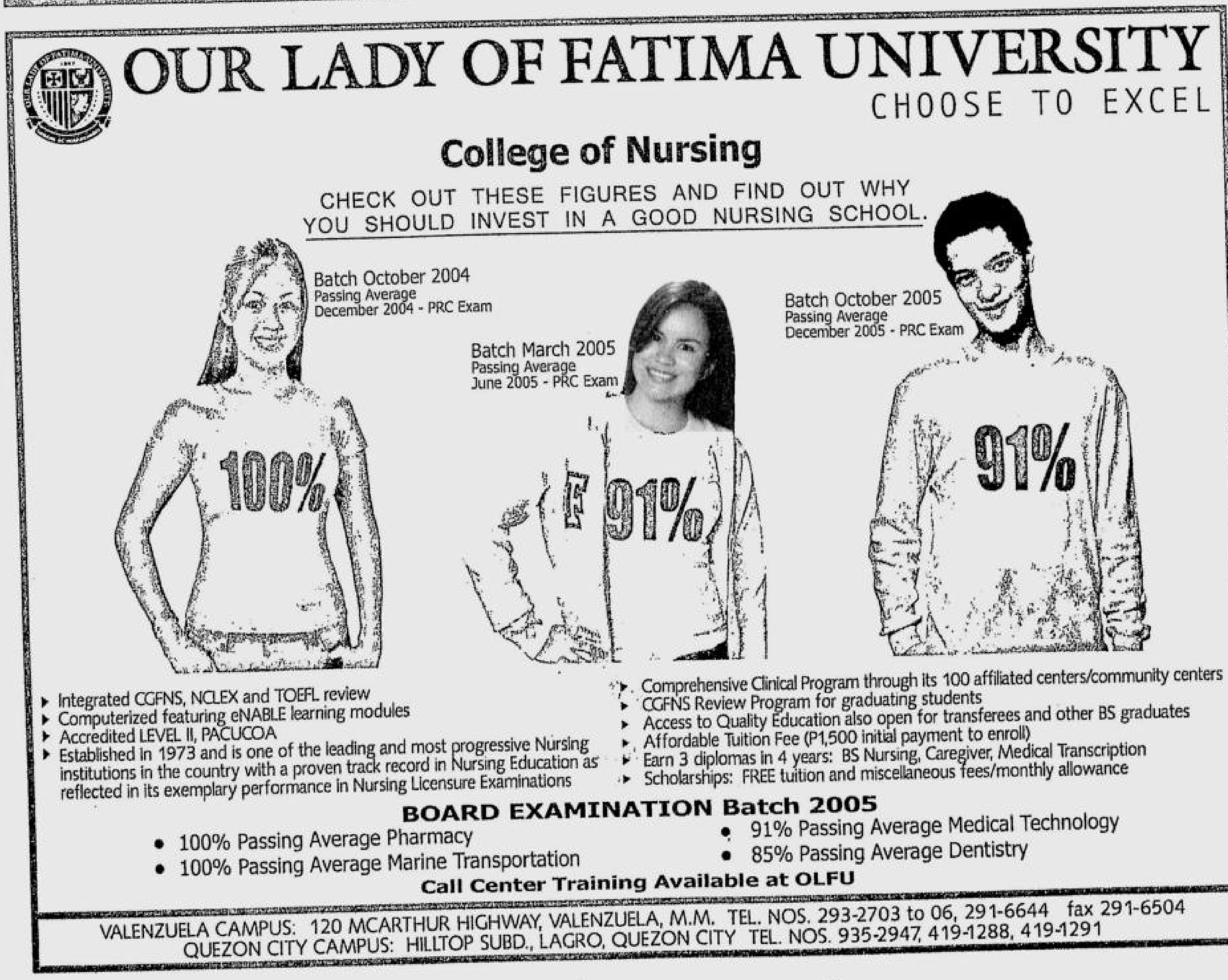
Palanca awards deadline tonight

THE DON CARLOS PALANCA MEMORIAL Foundation has announced that the deadline for submission of entries to the 56th Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for literature is not later than midnight of April 30. A work which has been awarded a prize in another contest before the deadline does not qualify for the awards.

Categories in the English and Filipino divisions are in Futuristic Fiction, Kabataan Essay, Short Story for Children, Essay, Poetry, One-Act Play, and Full-Length Play. The Short Story category is open in English, Filipino and the regional languages (Hiligaynon, Ilocano, Cebuano, etc.). The Teleplay and Screenplay categories are open only in the Filipino division.

Entries may be submitted in person or by courier to the Carlos Palanca Foundation, 6th floor, CPJ Bldg. 105 C. Palanca Jr. St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. All entries submitted via e-mail should be sent not later than midnight of April 30. Entries should be in RTF (rich text format) or a word document file and should be sent as an attachment, together with the author's bio-data and an original copy of the notarized authorization form.

Complete contest rules and official entry forms are available at the Carlos Palanca Foundation office or through e-mail at epawards@info.com.ph or palancaawards@yahoo.com. For more information, applicants may call tel. 818-36-81, local 31.



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Holding firm announces scholarships

ELEVEN SCHOLARS MAKE UP THE 2006-07 batch of the Phinma National Scholarship Program, The Philippine Investment-Management Inc. (Phinma) has announced.

The scholarship covers tuition, board and lodging, and an allowance for qualified students pursuing engineering, accounting and education degrees at the University of the Philippines-Diliman and Philippine Normal University, Phinma's partners in the program.

In addition, scholars will participate in out-of-classroom supplemental activities such as study tours, leadership conferences, outreach programs and Big Brother/Big Sister programs.

"Our goal is to produce not just graduates but leaders," said Phinma president and CEO Ramon R. del Rosario Jr.

"We want our scholars to be not only economically productive citizens but socially engaged individuals who will contribute to the Philippines' economic and social development," Del Rosario added.

Under the Big Brother/Big Sister program, scholars will be mentored by Phinma employees. The scholars in turn will be deployed to public schools to tutor potential scholars.

"Through this process, we will be actively involved in their [scholars'] formation and social development, and we can encourage them to start serving their country as early as now. We want to create a cascade effect," said Chito Salazar, Phinma senior vice president, who heads The Phinma Education Network.

Phinma is a holding company with interests in the property, education, energy and financial sectors. It recently acquired Araullo University in Nueva Ecija and Cagayan de Oro College in Cagayan de Oro City.

Mt. Bulusan erupts anew, but spews only steam, ash

By Bobby Q. Labalan
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SORSOGON CITY—MT. BULUSAN EXPLODED again at 10:44 a.m. yesterday, spewing a column of ash that reached 1.6-km high into the sky and showering surrounding villages with ash.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said steam inside the volcano ejected the ash.

There were no reports of casualties or damage and no sign of lava from the volcano.

But alert level 1 and the 4-km danger zone remained in effect around the volcano as a precaution to local residents.

The 1,565-meter volcano straddles the towns of Juban, Barcelona, Bulusan and Irosin. It is located 43 km south of this city.

Phivolcs resident volcanologist Ed Laguerta said the explosion showered ash on the barangays of Buraburan, Anog, Puting Sapa and Bacolod in Juban and Barangays Cogon and Bolos in Irosin town.

It was the second explosion by Mt. Bulusan this year. It first exploded on March 21.

Prior to March 21, Mt. Bulusan had its last activity in November 1994 up to January 1995, spewing ash that affected some 45,762 residents from the towns of Bulusan, Barcelona, Casiguran, Juban, Irosin and Gubat.

As of press time, Laguerta and his men were still at the site collecting ash samples to be sent to their laboratory for analysis.

"Technically, it was an eruption—although it was an ash explosion since the materials spewed were mostly ash and not pyroclastic ones," Laguerta, Mayon resident volcanologist based in Legazpi City, told the INQUIRER during the March 21 explosion.

He also said that since the materials spewed were only ash and not pyroclastic, there was not much hazard or threat to life at present but only an inconvenience to people.

He noted that Mt. Bulusan usually exhibited a "one-shot deal"—meaning, once it exploded, it took days before another activity occurred. "It exhibits discreet events," he said.

Laguerta also noted fissures on the volcano's slopes, as manifested by emitting smoke.

With an AFP report

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, April 30, 2006
3rd Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

Peter's sermon

Peter said to the people, "The God of Abraham, of Isaac and of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus whom you handed over to death and denied before Pilate, when even Pilate had decided to release him." You rejected the Holy and Just One, and you insisted that a murderer be released to you. You killed the Master of life, but God raised him from the dead and we are witnesses to this.

"Yet I know that you acted out of ignorance, as did your leaders. God has fulfilled in this way what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer.

"Repent, then, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

2nd Reading: 1 John 2:1-5

Jesus intercedes for us

My little children, I write to you that you may not sin. But if anyone sins, we have an intercessor with the Father, Jesus Christ, the Just One. He is the sacrificial victim for our sins and the sins of the whole world.

How can we know that we know him? If we fulfill his commands. If you say, "I know him," but do not fulfill his commands, you are a liar and the truth is not in you. But if you keep his word, God's love is made complete in you. This is how we know that we are in him.

Gospel: Luke 24:35-48

The risen Jesus is real!

Then the two told what had happened on the road and how Jesus made himself known when he broke bread with them.

As they went on talking about this, Jesus himself stood in their midst. (And he said to them, "Peace to you.") In their panic and fright they thought they were seeing a ghost, but he said to them, "Why are you upset and why do such ideas cross your mind? Look at my hands and feet and see that it is I myself. Touch me and see for yourselves that a ghost has no flesh and bones as I have." (As he said this, he showed his hands and feet.)

In their joy they didn't dare believe and were still astonished. So he said to them, "Have you anything to eat?" and they gave him a piece of broiled fish. He took it and ate it before them.

Then Jesus said to them, "Remember the words I spoke to you when I was still with you: Everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms had to be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

And he went on, "You see what was written: the Messiah had to suffer and on the third day rise from the dead. Then repentance and forgiveness in his name would be proclaimed to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. Now you shall be witnesses to this.

Commentary

Peter continues to preach about God's servant Jesus, the Author of Life put to death and raised from the dead, and we are his witnesses. And Peter calls out the words of Jesus: Reform your lives and be forgiven! This is the work of the Easter season for all of us: to know the Risen One among us, to remind one another as John does in his letters that if we know Jesus then we obey him and live in the truth; but if we do not keep his word, we are dead and do not know the love of God. It is in the Word of Scripture that we come to know and understand Jesus the Crucified and Risen One, in community. And in community we must live and suffer and be faithful, even unto death.

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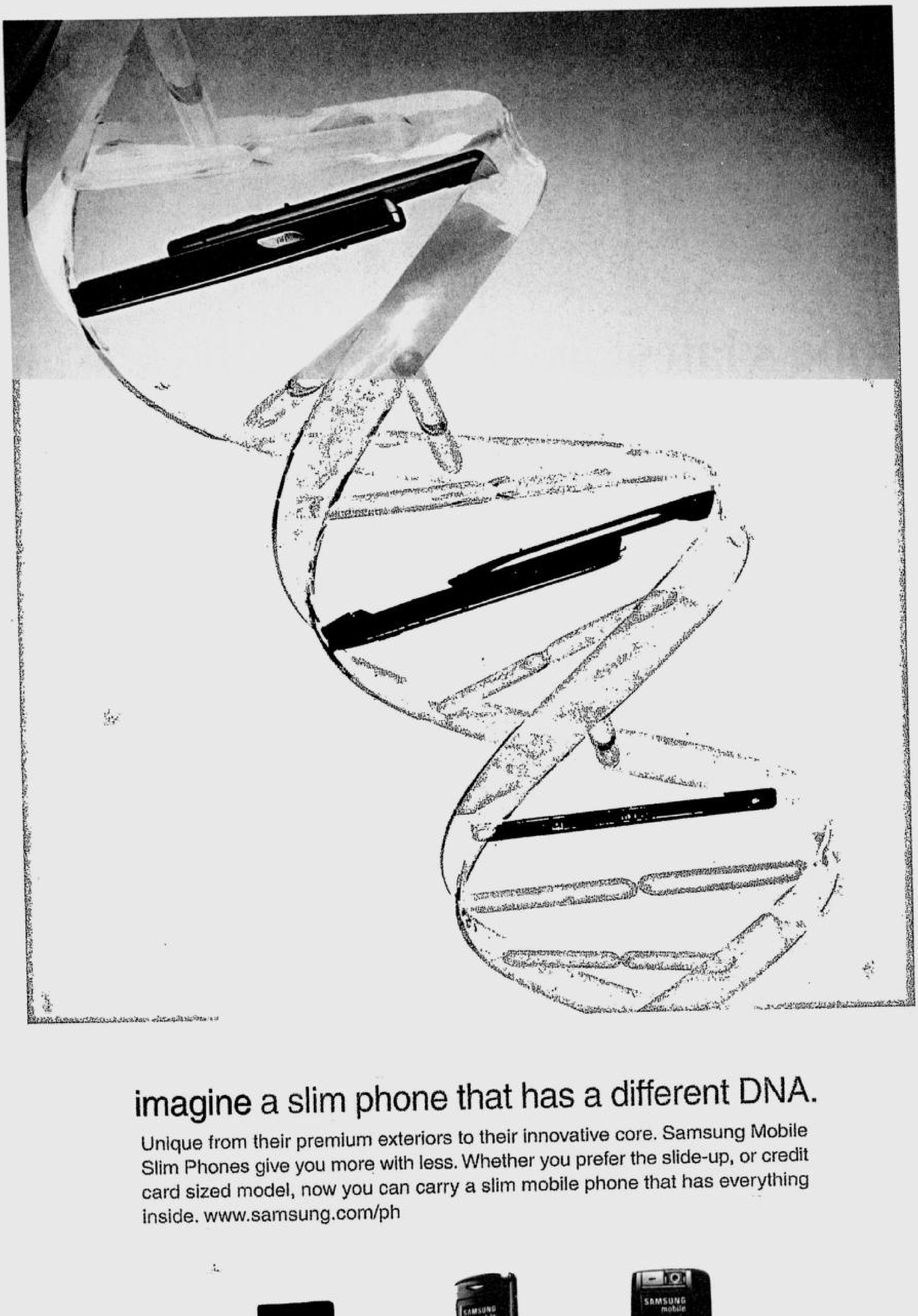

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Gonzales doubts Oplan Manggagawa

By Cynthia D. Balana

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER NORBERTO Gonzales yesterday doubted the authenticity of the so-called "Oplan Manggagawa" plot to topple President Macapagal-Arroyo because it was too grandiose a scheme to be carried out successfully.

"When I first read it, it really was a good plan but how will it be implemented? That's the problem. And who will implement it?" Gonzales said.

"So, the way I look at it, it is not a genuine document ... It cannot be implemented."

Gonzales spoke on Vice President Noli de Castro's public affairs program on dzMM, "Para Sa Iyo Bayan."

Gonzales said he read the two-page document regarding the plot as early as last week but was not able to obtain a copy.

Under the Oplan, which was reported by the INQUIRER the other day, political opposition groups and members of the religious sector will gather on Labor Day and then at some point, military and police rebels would attack camps Crame and Aguinaldo.

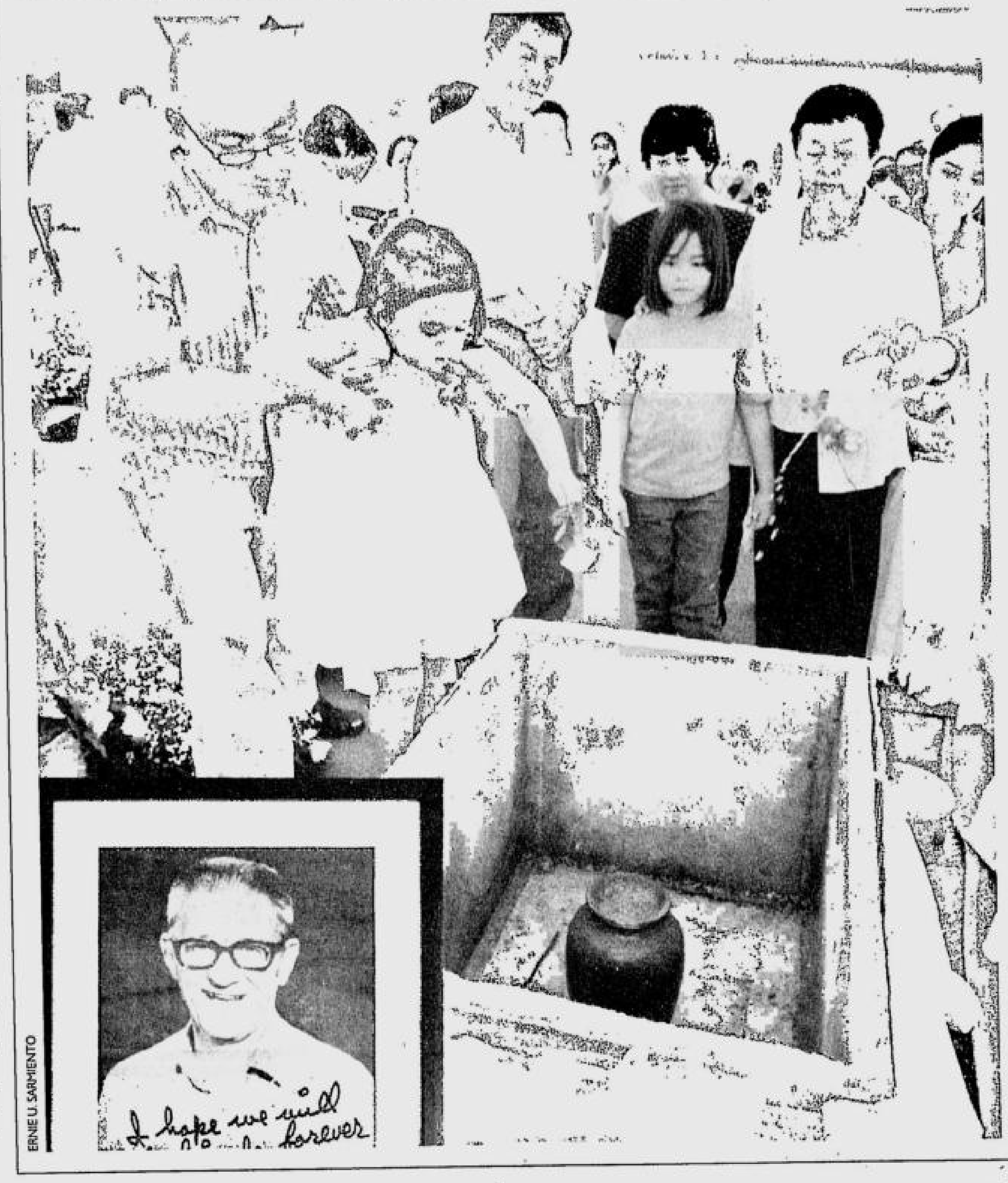
An assault would also be carried out on Malacañang and a new president installed before the end of the day.

The plot would also supposedly involve leftist elements.

Gonzales said that it would be impossible for plot organizers to execute such a massive move.

Gonzales said he was confident the Armed Forces chain of command would remain intact considering the professionalism of the military hierarchy.

Gonzales acknowledged that people power and the military were components of any scenario to topple a government, especially during significant events, such as Labor Day.


I hope we will ... forever

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Applause, thanks for the man everyone called 'Uncle Bob'

From page A1

In the '50s, Stewart's RBS was at the forefront of media events, such as the eruption of Mt. Hibok-Hibok in 1951 and the presidential elections of 1953 which pitted the charismatic Ramon Magsaysay against the incumbent Elpidio Quirino.

Irreplaceable

It was on TV, however, that Stewart gained popularity as "everybody's uncle" on the daytime kiddie show, "Uncle Bob's Lucky 7 Club," over Channel 7.

"Uncle Bob is irreplaceable," Gonzalo Buñag, a coworker in the broadcast industry, said.

"Philippine broadcasting would not be complete without Uncle Bob," said Buñag, who had worked with Stewart to reopen the radio station dzBB soon after martial law was declared in September 1972.

Stewart first arrived in Manila in 1943 as a war correspondent for the United Press.

Two years later, he resigned from the wire service agency, fell in love with Loreto Feliciano from Pampanga and began his pioneering work in Philippine broadcasting.

When martial law disallowed foreigners from owning media firms, Stewart gave up RBS Channel 7 and ownership was transferred to Gualberto Duavit, Menardo Jimenez and Felipe Gozon. RBS Channel 7 was also renamed GMA Channel 7.

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS. Great granddaughter of GMA 7 founder Bob Stewart, Arianna Quintal carried by her father Kirby, Stewart's grandson, drops a rose on the urn containing the ashes of Stewart during interment rites on Saturday at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.

Globe's latest mobile tech: Talk, see and be seen

From page A1

Subscribers to Ayala-owned Globe Telecom Inc. need not wonder. Because starting today, they will have video-calling capabilities at their fingertips.

Globe wireless business planning head Patricio Pineda III said the company's 3G service would now be available to both postpaid and prepaid subscribers of the telecom firm, following an earlier launch to corporate customers.

"Similar to other markets, we launched the service to corporate users first. This doesn't mean that the service will only be for high-end customers. We want to make it available to as big a market as possible," Pineda said in an interview yesterday.

To do that, he said the prices of Globe's 3G services, such as voice calls and data downloads, would cost the same as similar services currently available on the 2G platform.

OFWs who want to see their loved ones' faces when they call will only have to spend 40 US cents a minute—the same rate they are now paying for an ordinary mobile voice call.

Globe subscribers could already reach, via voice call, loved ones in Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Finland, Hungary, Luxembourg and Poland, Pineda said.

More countries would be added in the list in the coming days, he said.

First in Asia-Pacific

Pineda said Globe would also be launching a mobile broadband service that corporate users could take advantage of.

Globe will offer to all of its subscribers a high-speed downlink packet access (HSDPA), a technology that delivers data speeds of between 1 megabit per second (Mbps) and 3 Mbps—thrice as fast as 3G.

Pineda said Globe was the first to commercially launch such a service in the Philippines and the Asia-Pacific region.

According to an update from the Global Mobile Suppliers Association (GSA), as of April 24, Globe was the only telecom firm in Asia-Pacific to make HSDPA available to its subscribers.

Globe launched its HSDPA offering last March 30 as part of the GlobeSolutions Visibility product.

While the service targets mobility- and data-intensive corporate users, Pineda said it would also cater to individuals wanting speed and mobility at the same time, without having to be a large corporate user.

3G-HSDPA suite

Globe subscribers can also avail themselves of a 3G-HSDPA package, dubbed Globe Mobile Broadband 3G with HSDPA.

With this new offering, subscribers can avail of 3G and HSDPA services via a single account, eliminating the hassle of having to deal with different billing statements for different services.

"We're actually offering an HSDPA data card bundled with a SIM (subscriber identification module) card.

"Your original SIM will be in your handset, but if you want mobile broadband, we'll give you a SIM card with a number dedicated to that card," Pineda explained.

"That means you'll have separate phone numbers for 3G and HSDPA services. But you'll only get one billing statement for both services," he added.

Wide variety of content

For both services, he said Globe would be targeting mobile phone owners from all walks of life, not just corporate or high-end users.

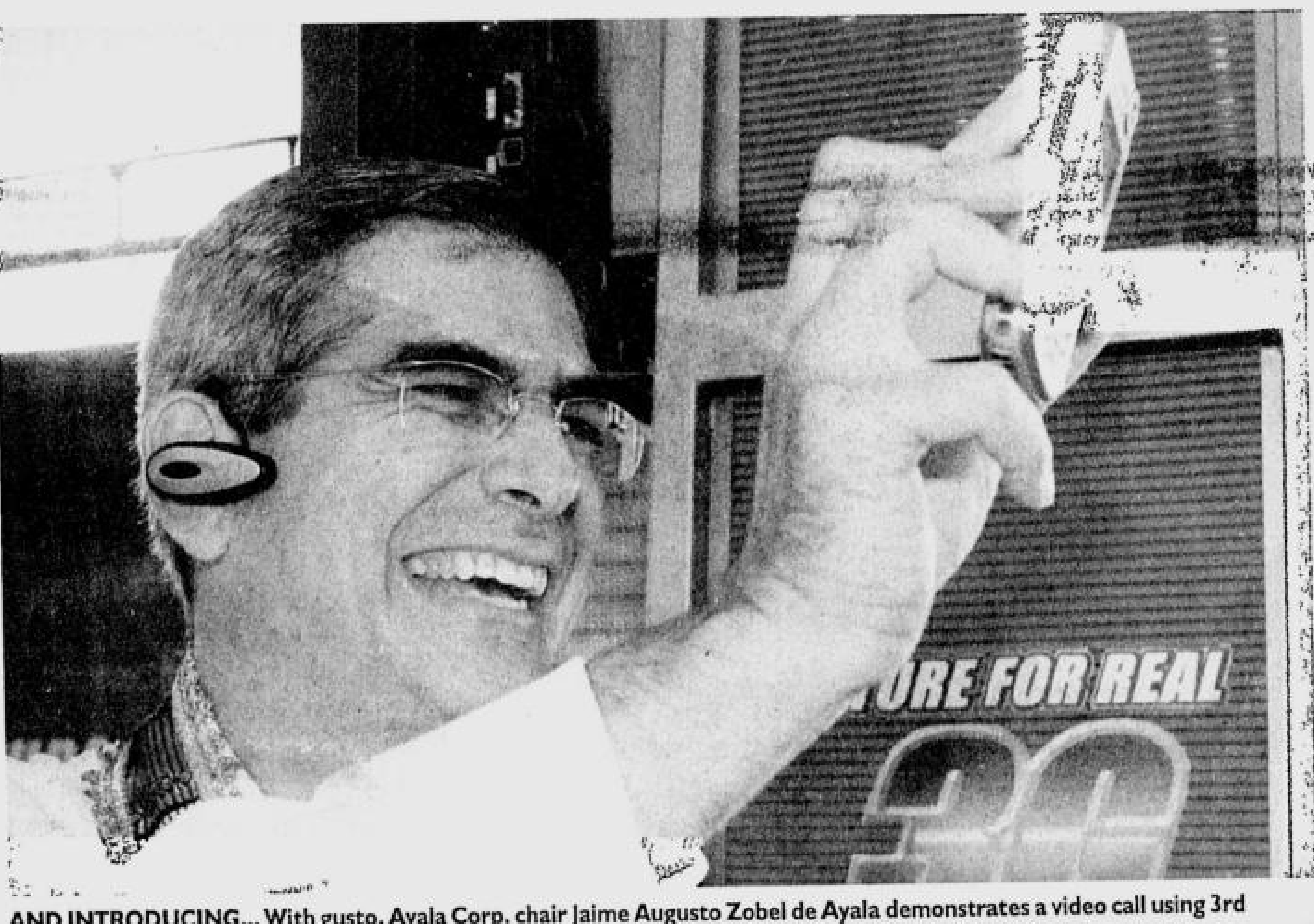
He said the availability of local content should make 3G an appealing proposition to the mobile operator's subscribers.

"We have local music, local entertainment clips, traffic cams and all sorts of local content. This wide variety of content should appeal to a big part of our subscriber base," he said.

Eventually, he said Globe's 3G service would be made available to subscribers of TM, the Ayala telecom firm's mass-market brand.

While the current price structure of Globe's 3G services matches that of existing 2G offerings, he said the company would come out with "more innovative plans later," while keeping the services affordable as its main goal.

"We just want to offer services that provide benefits for everyone. Video calling for OFWs, for example," he said. "That's a key part of what we want to bring to the market."



AND INTRODUCING... With gusto, Ayala Corp. chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala demonstrates a video call using 3rd Generation technology, one of the highlights of the 19th Advertising Congress in Cebu City last November. CDN PHOTO

MA-INIT!
(It's summer again!)

Mainit na! Panahon na naman ng electric fans at aircon.

How do we keep cool, the natural way? Answer: Install an insulation material that merely reflects heat and does not store it.

What material is this? Harvi-Foil aluminum roll sheets from New Zealand.

Harvi-foil is a thin, strong aluminum foil sheet that reflects heat. It is installed beneath the roof and above the attic.

But would not foam or air-bubbled cells make the foil a better insulation material? No, they won't. It is the foil's reflectivity that wards off heat, not the material's thickness or air-bubbles.

Based on numerous tests conducted by international laboratories, aluminum foil reflects 95% of radiant heat and only 5% is retained as emissitivity.

This 5% heat emissivity can still build up inside the house throughout the day and make it hot.

How do we control that 5% emissivity building up in the roof? Design a roof system that makes use of a lot of air.

Air is matter with one of the highest heat resistance known to man. Also, moving air can dissipate trapped heat most easily.

And where can you find that air in the roof system? It is in the attic, that space between the roof and the ceiling. That air is FREE!

So, why buy an expensive foil with foam or air-bubbles with insignificant heat resistance for their thinness, when you have an attic full of air that is free?

How else must we design the roof system to minimize emissivity build-up in the attic?

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Inquirer still No. 1, Nielsen readership survey affirms

From page A1

that we have maintained our leadership position nationwide. We thank our valued readers for making this possible," PDI president and CEO Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez said.

"We continuously innovate and strive to satisfy our readers. Recently, we launched several innovations, such as the A plus section, Global Pinoy, Lifestyle Fashion, and highlighted positive stories on the front page, to cater to our readers' diverse interests," she said.

Top since 2001

The INQUIRER has topped all five readership surveys that Nielsen Media Research has conducted nationwide since 2001.

In the five readership surveys, Manila Bulletin placed second and the Philippine Star third.

Nielsen Media Research conducted no survey on media index in 2005, but plans to do two readership surveys starting this year.

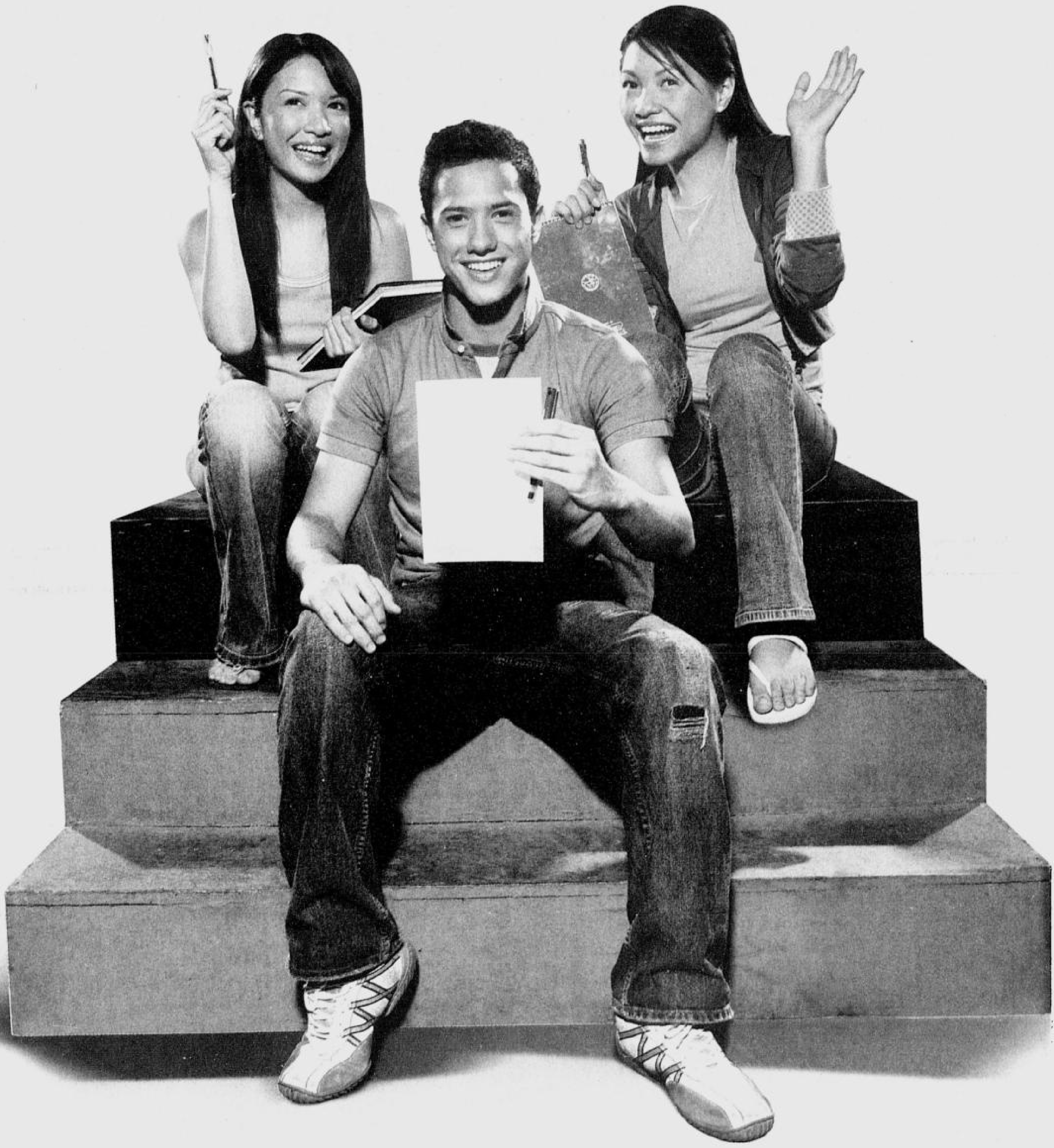
The Media Index is a syndicated and independent study undertaken by the prestigious international research firm, whose subscribers include local publications, a television network, advertising agencies and big advertisers.

"Apart from readers having the Readers' Advocate to turn to for their comments and concerns, we have added a Subscription Hotline, 896-6000," said Connie Kalagayan, PDI strategic marketing and communications manager.

PDI priority: Readers

"We want to give [our readers] the opportunity to air their newspaper delivery comments/suggestions, and subscription needs," said Kalagayan. "It is our aim to build an engaging relationship where communication is a two-way thing. Our priority is to make our readers happy."

Kalagayan said readers may also avail themselves of subscription packages for 90 up to 360 issues. Under such packages, subscribers automatically receive for free every month any three or all of the following publications: INQUIRER Golf Magazine, INQUIRER Badminton, Just Shop and Junior INQUIRER.



Can't wait
for the latest showbiz gossip?

"OUR MARRIAGE can be considered a culmination of what we've been fighting for: Mainstreaming. One aspect of that is to have families of our own," the Ilagan couple agree. ROMY HOMILLADA

A KISS IS STILL A KISS. Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Ilagan steal a kiss inside the bridal car after their wedding at the Lourdes Church in Quezon City. ROMY HOMILLADA

Like any . . .

From page A1

ple message to and in behalf of other PWDs.

"Don't focus on our disability but on what we can do," said the groom, Dennis Ilagan, 42, vice president of the Cerebral Palsy Association of the Philippines (CPAP).

"[Our marriage] can be considered a culmination of what we've been fighting for: Mainstreaming," he said in an interview hours before the 3 p.m. wedding.

One aspect of mainstreaming is enabling PWDs to "have families of their own without depending too much on friends and family," Dennis explained.

In a separate interview, the bride, 29-year-old Ludivina Grace Salazar, said: "We will live on our own and try to live as normally as possible."

Cementing the bond

Dennis and Grace have actually been wed in a civil ceremony.

But at yesterday's church wedding, Grace sounded like any other nervous bride plagued by last-minute worries. (Digressing at one point, she lamented: "Our cameraman is still missing!")

Grace said their being both *seloso* was one of the reasons they decided to get married before a judge in Manila on Aug. 24 last year.

In four days, Dennis was to fly to Denmark for nine weeks of training on how to run advocacy programs for PWDs. He was one of two Filipinos sponsored by a Danish organization.

They just wanted to cement their bond, knowing each would be out of the other's sight for nine weeks, Grace said.

The two first met at a CPAP function and became sweethearts in 2001. He was the group's president, and she the public relations officer.

The way Grace recalled it, their courtship followed a familiar route: "We often ended up being seated next to each other" during meetings, and fellow CPAP officers often teased them as a destined pair.

And then, on Oct. 15, 2001, "he popped the question and my answer also came in a snap," she said.

'Slowness of movement'

Dennis' condition impaired both of his legs and his right arm; Grace's mainly affected her legs.

According to Dennis, cerebral palsy is basically a kind of paralysis resulting from a lack of oxygen in the parts of the brain responsible for motor functions. It often occurs before or shortly after birth.

The resulting "spasticity of the muscles" makes the performance of most daily activities very difficult, he said.

Thus, "slowness of movement" is the main cause of the hardships faced by those afflicted—or other PWDs, for that matter—in their struggle to go mainstream by attaining higher education, finding jobs, or simply taking part in normal social functions.

For example, the 13 members of the CPAP board of directors can be considered employable, "but only five of them have jobs right now," Dennis said.

Of the organization's membership of around 250 (covering Metro Manila and chapters in Davao, Iloilo and Pangasinan), he would consider around 50 to be fit for employment befitting their education, but only about 1 percent have jobs.

An economics graduate of the University of Sto. Tomas, Dennis works for Delivering Hope for Spasticity Inc., of which he is the executive director.

THE WALKERS (crutches on wheels) are parked while the bride and groom take their vows: In sickness and in health, for better, for worse, till death do they part. ROMY HOMILLADA

The nongovernment organization basically engages in neuro-rehabilitation therapy for persons with cerebral palsy and stroke victims.

Finding romance

But if PWDs need all the support they can get from Dennis' NGO and the like, they don't need help when it comes to finding romance, Grace seemed to suggest.

"We are opposites in many things," the psychology graduate of Trinity College said of herself and her man. "We started out as friends until [feelings] developed into a beautiful relationship."

For all their differences in taste and the usual lovers' quarrels they have had, "he has brought out the best in me," she said, smiling. "He knows how to handle me when I'm down and whenever I have my *sumpong* (moods)."

Grace described Dennis as a lover of few words who reserved his sweetest nothings for those moments when they were alone together.

He lived up to that image during the interview.

"She's very pretty, very sweet and very understanding," Dennis said of his bride. "We've known each other well, we've accepted one another."

Like any average couple, he said, they expected to face the early tests of marriage starting with matters financial.

Thankfully, both of them are employed: He at his NGO, and she at another nonprofit organization, the Philippine Cerebral Palsy Inc., where she is part of the medical staff.

Unconditional love

At the wedding ceremony, a number of the guests—about 15 PWDs among them—were teary-eyed when Grace walked down the aisle.

The officiating priest, Rev. Fred Micua, said that while many people might doubt the wisdom of the couple in marrying, in the eyes of God they were "more whole" than most normal people.

He likened their decision to live as husband and wife, despite the challenges posed by their condition, to "the love that God gives us unconditionally."

As far as she knew, said Jean Gonzales, one of the godparents and current vice president of the Philippine Association of Citizens with Developmental and Learning Disabilities, the Ilagans are the first PWD couple in the country to marry.

The wedding reception was held at the residence of another of the godparents on Kanlaon Street near the church, according to the bride's aunt, Leonora Gonzales. *With a report from Kris Bayos*

To the wonders of Internet, add fundraiser for sick kids

From page A1

ailment and the required surgery that would cost P150,000.

Local eBay

Most of the media outfits based in Baguio are part of a network that Dacawi taps whenever he embarks on a benefit activity, Mayona said.

But it was a woman in the United States who suggested putting together a local version of the online auction site, eBay, to finance Santy's surgery, he said.

Identified in community chat rooms only as "Princess Lea," the woman proposed that Mayona link up with another Baguio website, www.baguiocityonline.com, to host the eBay-styled project she called "e-wagwagan."

(*Wagwag* is the local term for *ukay-ukay*, the second-hand commodities imported from Hong Kong and sold cheap on the sidewalks or in local bargain houses.)

Mayona said the e-wagwagan began immediately on March 8, a day after Princess Lea proposed it. The auction ended on April 20 and generated nearly half of what they had intended to raise for Santy.

Marzan said the response to e-wagwagan had enlightened him and his colleagues on the possibilities of online charity work.

He said the benefit concerts they would normally stage in the city or in the towns of Benguet could be broadcast online to tap into Filipino communities abroad.

They could even sell their locally produced compact discs online for charity, he said.

Even phone cards

But actually, Mayona said, this first online charity project was a humbling experience.

The first item they put up for bidding was a Smart Buddy prepaid phone card worth P300 that sold for the same amount. A second prepaid card fared better, raising P500.

Princess Lea constantly reminded online bidders that the e-wagwagan items were being sold for charity, and urged them to bid higher than their actual value.

Among the items sold at auction were Globe prepaid plus phone cards, and gift certificates donated by Jollibee, SM malls, National Bookstore and Mercury Drug.

Some of the stuff was donated from abroad, including gift cards worth $100 (P5,178) and $50 (P2,589) from Macy's department store in New York City, a Wal-Mart gift card worth $25 (P1,294.50) and a Coach leather products gift card worth $50 (P2,589).

Mayona said he and his colleagues tried to be innovative.

Promising that all the proceeds would go to Santy's benefit, he offered his P15,000 computer and, later, advertising space in his Web newspaper.

When no business company took up Mayona's offer, Princess Lea offered 100,000 Fairfield Resorts and Outrigger Time Share points, which would allow the winning bidder to use a room in any of these US resorts for a period of time.

Show-stealers

But from accounts, Igorota and Jimili stole the show.

Igorota heckled online bidder "abobb" into increasing his bid, Mayona said. When abobb did not show up for their date, Igorota teased him again online.

It was Jimili who introduced the online service concept, Mayona said.

She wrote those bidding for her one-day-maid services that she would "do anything" she would be asked to do, "as long as there would be no 'moral' and 'intellectual' concerns or issues involved."

"Basically, I can do things like … household chores, babysitting, gardening [or waiting tables]," she wrote.

She said that she would foot her food bills as well as her transportation expenses, but only within Baguio or La Trinidad in Benguet, and that she would be available between March 27 and April 9.

"You can choose any day, but [I] need to be notified at least three days in advance," she wrote.

But for all that, Jimili was never contracted to do household chores, "because she's a girl."

"The winning bidder decided to let her help with a project to publish an authentic Ibaloi dictionary instead," Mayona said.

The proceeds will be sent to the hospital that will handle Santy's surgery, he said.

Army officers not amused by Sgt. Pacman's KO look

From page A1

raised criticism among officers.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the officers said they were irked by the champion's long hair and unshaven appearance when he received his sergeant rank as a member of the Army reserve force.

Dream come true

Pacquiao put on a soldier's camouflage combat uniform and headband as he thanked Army officials for fulfilling his original dream of becoming a soldier.

But some officers reacted adversely when they saw the newspaper photographs and television video footage of a grinning Pacquiao surrounded by his fans in the Army.

They complained that Pacquiao, who sported long hair, sideburns, a moustache and a goatee, did not bother to observe the military regulation haircut.

Soldiers are required to keep their hair short, neat and well-groomed. Their faces should be clean-shaven.

Even GMA 7's news anchor Mike Enriquez, while reading the report and upon seeing the footage of Pacquiao in a soldier's uniform, blurted out: "*May balbas pa!* [He's got a beard!]"

"The picture of Sgt. Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao on [the front page] of the INQUIRER is disgusting. An Army soldier with a mustache and a goatee, long hair and sideburns. A wrong Army model-soldier," one senior officer said in a text message to reporters.

The complaining officers said Pacquiao should have gotten a shave and a haircut since he knew he was going to be seen in a military uniform.

But Col. Isabelo Barabicho III, commander of the National Capital Region Regional Community Defense Group [NCR-RCDG], said reservist officers like Pacquiao need not comply with military haircut regulations.

Barabicho conferred the sergeant rank on Pacquiao as a member of the Army's reservist force. Army vice commander, Maj. Gen. Ricardo Brillantes, was also around to welcome Pacquiao.

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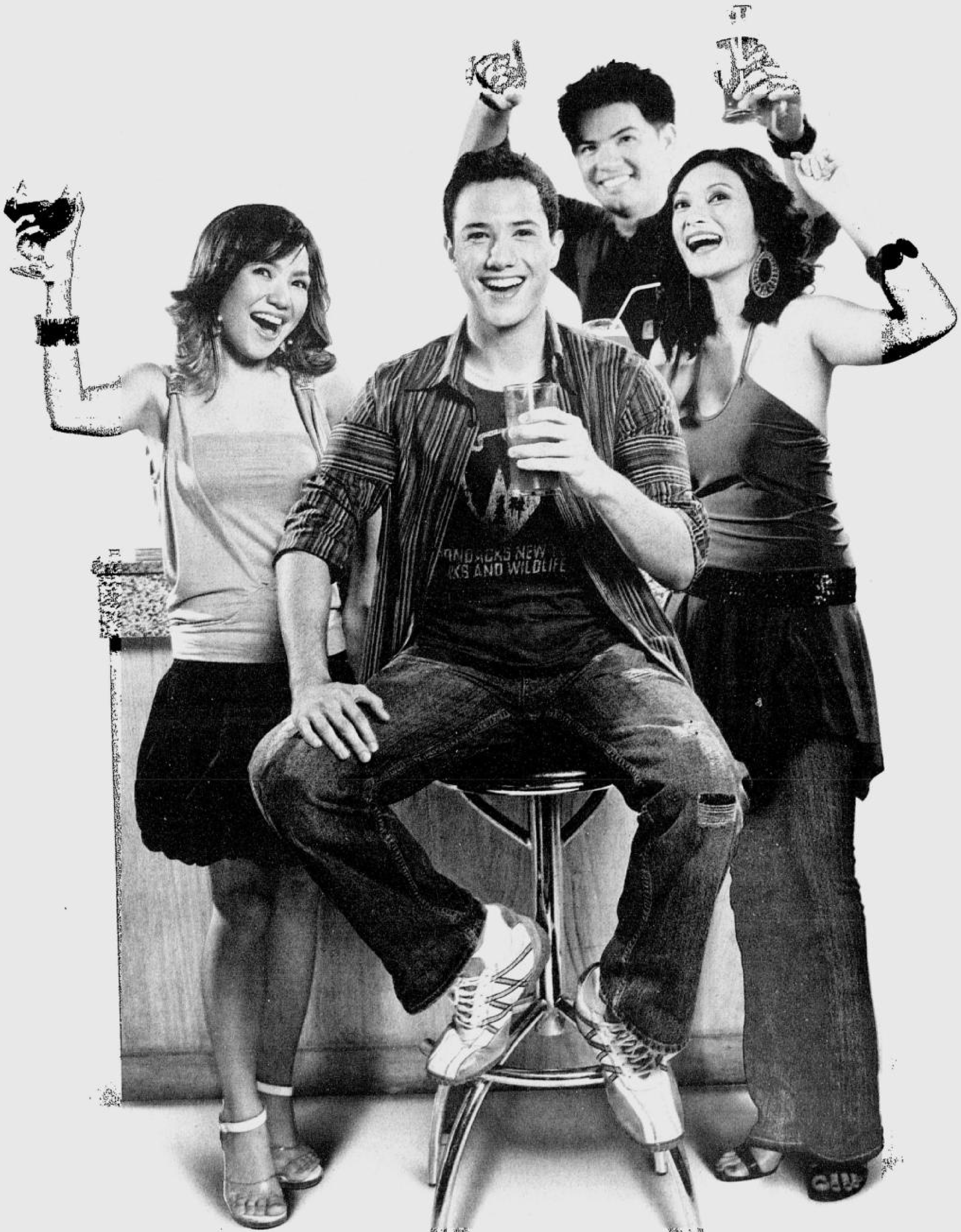

Can't wait
to see their latest video?

DOLE to labor: Avoid violence, enjoy

By Jerome Aning

LABOR SECRETARY Patricia Sto. Tomas yesterday called on militant groups planning to hold protests on Labor Day to police their ranks and avoid violence.

Saying freedom of assembly was a constitutionally guaranteed right, Sto. Tomas stressed that protesters also had the responsibility to make sure that nobody from among their ranks took advantage of the situation to create chaos.

"We respect any move to assemble as long as it is conducted in a peaceful manner," she said in a statement.

"We should treat every Labor Day as a special occasion to make our workers feel that their perseverance and sacrifices for their families and for the country, in general, are being acknowledged," she said.

Sto. Tomas suggested that with the long weekend, workers could take advantage of the holiday by spending their vacations in domestic tourist spots.

Boost tourism

"This way, they are not only enjoying the holiday but they are also helping domestic tourism," she said.

On Monday, Sto. Tomas will join President Macapagal-Arroyo in distributing scholarship certificates to call center agents in Malacañang.

As part of her pre-Labor Day activities, Sto. Tomas plans to meet with sugar workers in Nasugbu, Batangas, today.

Classrooms

Sto. Tomas will inaugurate two brand new classrooms completed under the Classroom Galing sa Mamamayang Pilipino sa Abroad (CGMA) program that will benefit school children in Nasugbu's Barangay Tumalim.

The Tumalim Groceria Project will also be inaugurated in the area to ensure the successful reintegration of returning overseas Filipino workers into their families.

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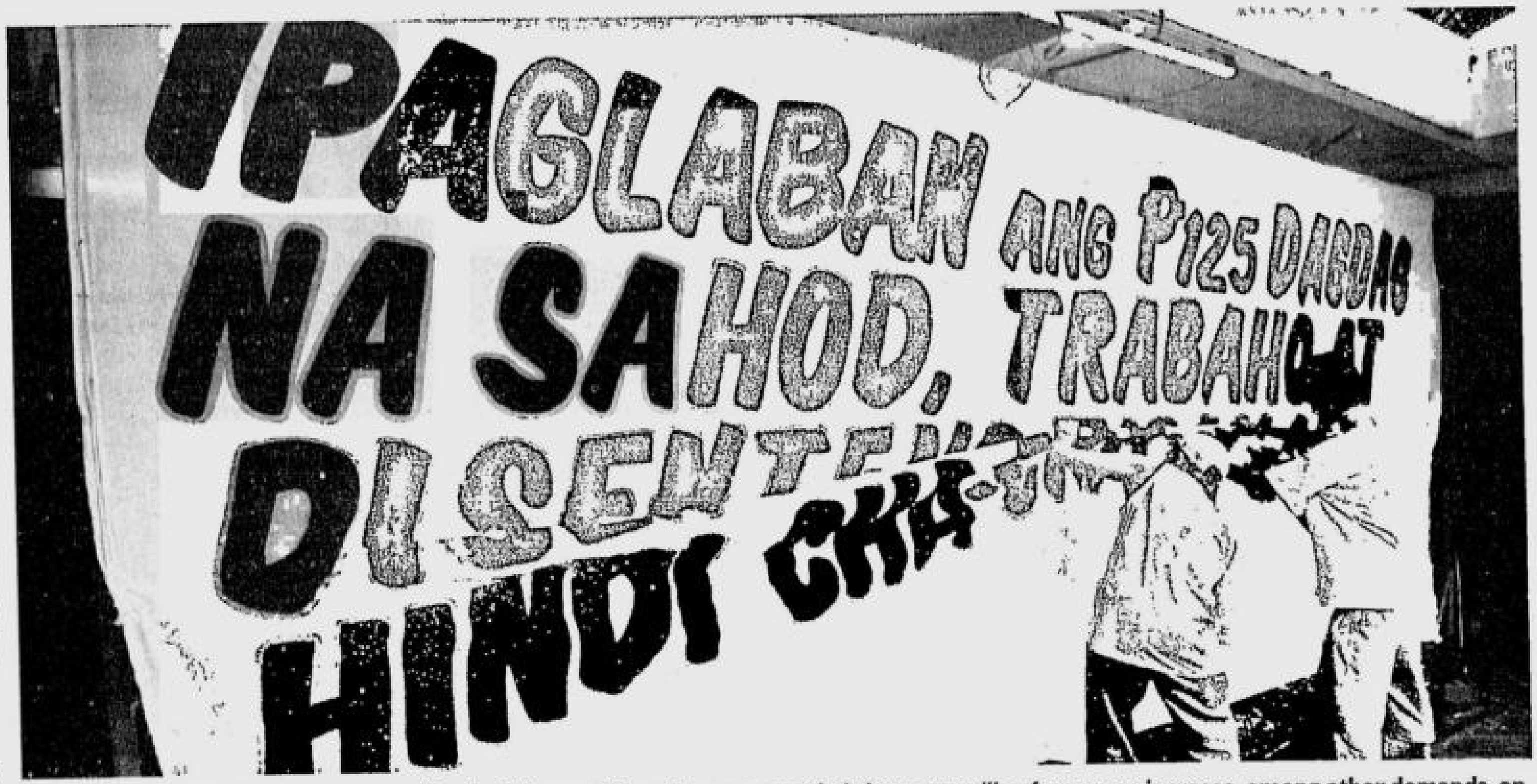
IPAGLABAN ANG P125 DAGDAG NA SAHOD, TRABAHO AT DISENTE
HINDI CHA-CHA

LABOR INTENSIVE. Militant groups like the Kilusang Mayo Uno prepare their banners calling for a wage increase, among other demands, on Labor Day tomorrow. RAFFY LERMA

No stopping GMA's Cavite heckler

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau
Aquiles Z. Zonio and Jeoffrey Maitem
PDI Mindanao Bureau

LUCENA CITY—The female student leader from the Cavite State University who heckled President Macapagal-Arroyo during graduation ceremonies last week isn't done yet.

Ma. Theresa Pangilinan will be among the militants—including workers, farmers and students—who are taking part in a caravan from Southern Tagalog to Metro Manila to link up with other demonstrators for tomorrow's planned massive Labor Day protests in the capital.

"Ma. Theresa will lead the student bloc of the marchers from the Southern Tagalog region," Bayan media coordinator Oca Lapida said in a phone interview before the caravan started. "She's not yet finished in her call for Arroyo's ouster. But this time, she will join fellow protesters from different sectors of society,"

Pangilinan created a security scare during the graduation rites in Indang last week when she shouted "*Patalsikin si* (Oust) Gloria" while the President was speaking.

ROLE MODEL FOR THE YOUTH, that's how the Kabataan Party now refers to Ma. Theresa Pangilinan, the Cavite State University graduate who heckled President Arroyo as she delivered the commencement address last week. Pangilinan was hailed during a press conference on Saturday. RAFFY LERMA

Don't block entry to Manila

Guillermo Bautista, chair of Katipunan ng mga Samahan ng Magbubukid sa Timog Katagalugan, warned the police and the military not to block the entry to Manila of the caravan composed of more than 40 vehicles.

"We have managed to break through their cordon during the heat of the CPR (calibrated preemptive response). We will not be stopped," he stressed, referring to Malacañang's policy against demonstrations which the Supreme Court has voided.

The Cavite caravan, which also includes rallyists from Quezon, Batangas, Laguna and Mindoro, will ride until Parañaque and walk the rest of the way to the Redemptorist Church in Baclaran, where they will spend the night with a protest vigil.

Target is Mendiola

The marchers from Rizal province left Tanay in the morning to join the Cavite protesters.

Today, the group will hold rallies at the Edsa Shrine and the office of the Department of Agrarian Reform.

It will spend the night on the UP Diliman campus in Quezon City and join other protesters from Luzon on Monday for a rally at the historic Don Chino Roces (Mendiola) Bridge near Malacañang.

"Militant groups from the region will time and again call (for the ouster of) Arroyo and for economic and social reforms to ease the deepening poverty and destitution in the countryside," Bautista said.

Major cities

In the South, Zainab Ampatuan, deputy secretary general of the Suara Bangsamoro group, said he expected the May 1 protests in Mindanao to be attended by at least 60,000 protesters.

"We will stage protests in major cities of Mindanao ... in Davao, Cagayan de Oro and General Santos," Ampatuan said in Cotabato City.

Unlike in Metro Manila, where protests sometimes turn violent, the Mindanao rallies are expected to be peaceful.

Wage demands

In General Santos City, Bill Andres, spokesperson of Bayan, said the P125 increase in the daily minimum wage remained the main issue for workers.

He said workers in General Santos were still being paid P200 per day despite the successive increase in the prices of basic commodities and the cost of transportation.

Andres said they would also protest the government's continuing failure to address the growing unemployment problem.

He said there were about 4 million jobless Filipinos but Malacañang was focusing on moves to perpetuate Ms Arroyo in power.

"Once Cha-cha (Charter change) succeeds, workers would be plunged further into the abyss of economic misery," he said.

Palace sets 1017 powers

From page A1

parts in the capital.

Other activist groups said they were organizing up to 60,000 protesters in various parts of Mindanao. *(See related stories on this page.)*

"We will only take this course (an emergency proclamation) if the rallies turn out to be a cover for an armed component to topple this administration," Defensor said.

Police used Ms Arroyo's Proclamation 1017 to break up protest rallies, arrest demonstrators, raid the offices of a newspaper harshly critical of her, and intimidate media.

Defensor's warning followed reports of a new plot supposedly hatched by the opposition and the Left—called "Oplan Manggagawa"—to forcibly pry Ms Arroyo from Malacañang.

Malacañang scheme

The Oplan purportedly calls for marches on Edsa, assemblies of opposition leaders and some religious groups, armed attacks by rebel soldiers and police on camps Crame and Aguinaldo, an assault on Malacañang and the proclamation of a new president by 5 p.m. tomorrow.

Opposition lawmakers and militant groups denied any hand in the purported Oplan and said it was a Malacañang-inspired scheme to link them to a power grab and justify crackdowns on Labor Day protesters and critics of Ms Arroyo.

Defensor said that PP 1017 enabled Ms Arroyo to quash a plot by military adventurists and leftist rebels to oust her and that, just as in February, she would use her powers judiciously.

"There were no warrantless arrests made under PP 1017. The media might have been a little offended by it, [but] there was really no takeover of any print or broadcast unit. It's a far cry from martial law," said Defensor.

AFP downplays Oplan

He stressed that Ms Arroyo would not proclaim an emergency "if the rallies are just political movements or protest actions."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the police and military were on top of the situation. But he said the government "will not shirk its duty of implementing the law to protect the ordinary working man and to preserve order in our streets."

Protesters should stay within the law and protect their own ranks, Bunye said.

While police in the capital would be on red alert, the military, downplaying Oplan Manggagawa, was still maintaining a lower level blue alert.

"We will go on full alert tomorrow and I appeal to rally organizers not to violate the law," said the national capital police chief, Director Vidal Querol.

When troops are on highest alert, all leaves and dayoffs are cancelled and all are required to report to their posts.

Military information chief Col. Tristan Kison said that, so far, there was no plan to put soldiers on red alert.

Palace hand seen

"We have not monitored violent activities. But we make an assessment every day," said Kison.

"*Wala na, wala na* (No more, no more)," he said when asked if the military was aware of such a plan.

Senate President Franklin Drilon, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Sen. Jinggoy Estrada expressed disbelief at the supposed plot.

Drilon and Pimentel said it was an attempt to justify the reimposition of Proclamation 1017.

"Secretary (Raul) Gonzalez issued veiled threats about the revival of 1017 so this is part of the intimidation," Drilon said in a phone interview.

Laying the groundwork

"We condemn such a brazen attempt to continue to lay the basis for measures that they intend to undertake," he said.

Pimentel said the Senate "will not be involved in an extralegal grab for power."

Pimentel added: "The administration is trying to lay the basis for the forcible breaking up of peaceful rallies for Labor Day and project it as a power grab with senators as masterminds ... Only they can make that up."

"They are the ones concocting this. That's too good to be true," Estrada said, adding the Oplan was a "psywar" being waged by Malacañang to frighten its critics.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, one of the Batasan 5 group of congressmen under House protective custody and facing rebellion charges, said that Malacañang and the police should not push the panic button.

"Instead, they should show respect for the right of the Filipino working class to demonstrate on Labor Day and ventilate their legitimate grievances which are numerous," he said.

Crisis of legitimacy

But Ocampo said workers had "every right to call for (Ms Arroyo's) ouster" because of the unresolved political and economic crises in the country.

"Besides her refusal to resolve the crisis of legitimacy besetting her government, she has rejected any considerable wage hike and declined to institute price controls on basic goods and services to ease their burden of economic survival," he said.

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano accused the administration of "manufacturing a scenario to justify the militarization of the Batasang Pambansa complex and the Senate premises (and) execute its hellish objective of forcibly booting us out of Congress."

Sleepless in the Palace

"A figment of the President's imagination," "Malacañang-hatched anti-Labor Day propaganda campaign," and "Palace-concocted psychological warfare" were phrases used by the Kilusang Mayo Uno, Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino and other groups in describing the alleged Oplan.

"The administration officials must not blame workers if they're having sleepless nights," KMU chair Elmer Labog said. *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, Philip C. Tubeza and Jerome Aning*

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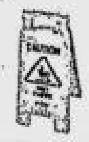

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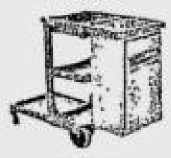

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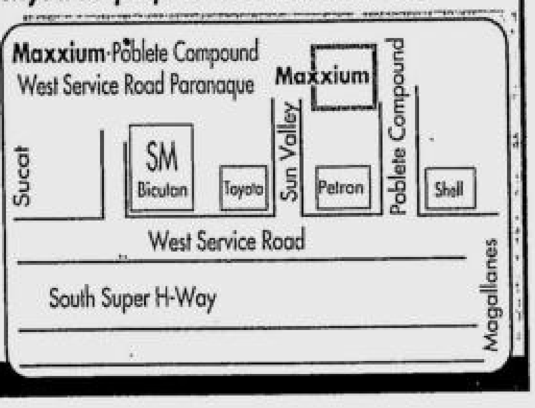

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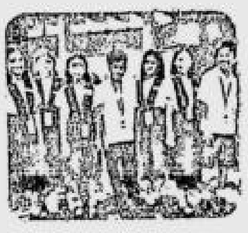

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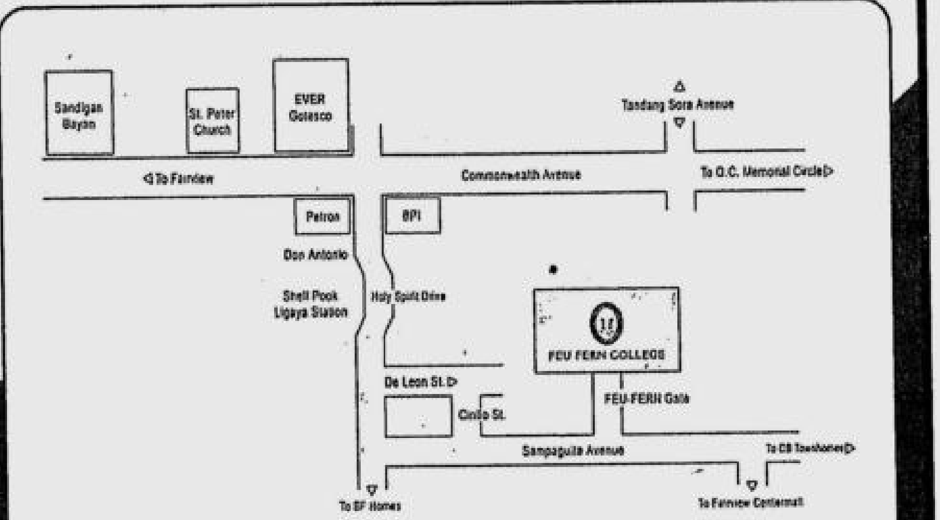

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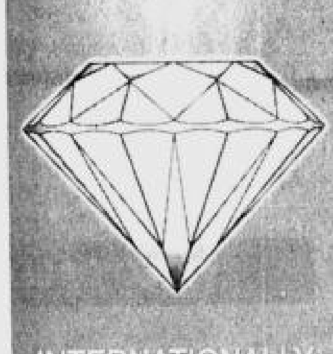

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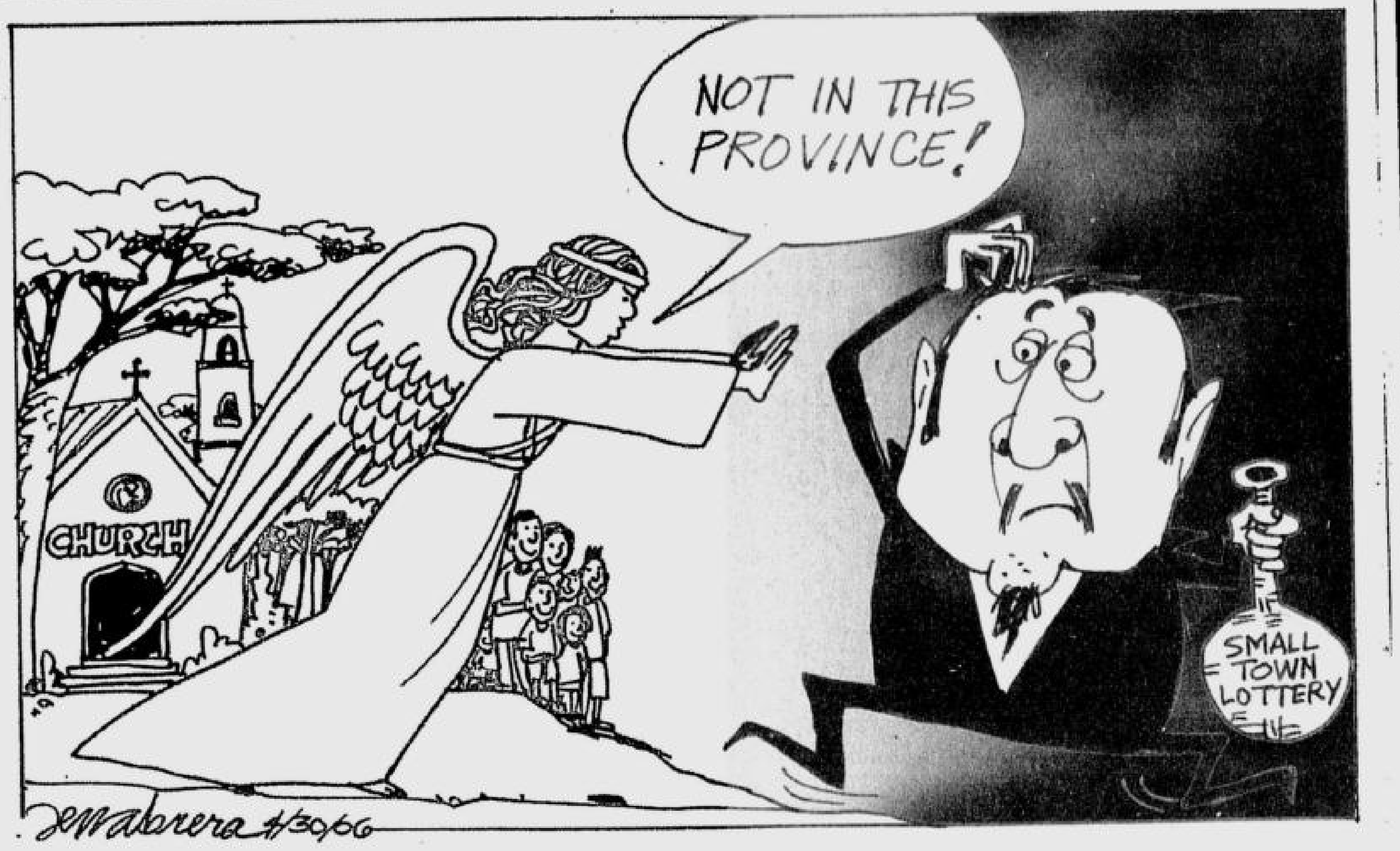


EDITORIALS

Brazen

HAS THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON GOOD Government lost completely its sense of right and wrong? Only last January, PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio defied senators in a legislative hearing by refusing to answer a simple question: Does President Macapagal-Arroyo know of the agency's negotiations on a compromise agreement regarding the coconut levy funds with Marcos crony Eduardo Cojuangco? Since then, the PCGG has apparently become more brazen. Today, it's PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede who is going around town proudly trumpeting his "exploratory" talks with the Marcoses for a 70-30 sharing of their ill-gotten wealth.

Aside from millions of pesos he says the government can save from withdrawing the cases filed in court against the Marcoses, Abcede is trying to justify this latest PCGG proposal with Imeldific flair. He has been quoting Imelda Marcos as saying that "the Marcos assets are enough to pay our national debt, plus more." That means about P4 trillion flowing back into government coffers—if one can take Imelda at her word.

To say that's a staggering amount is to state the obvious—and to miss the key significance of her fantastic claim. For what it really amounts to is an admission of plunder of unimaginable proportions. There is simply no other way the Marcoses could have come by such fabulous wealth.

Is the sheer magnitude of the sums the government supposedly stands to recover reason enough to forgive and forget their crime? It is for Abcede. "I don't care about the moral issues involved," he flatly declares. "Part of our mandate is the recovery of the Marcos wealth. And the negotiations are within our mandate."

To him, it doesn't matter either that the Supreme Court ruled in 1998 that the PCGG has no mandate to grant criminal and civil immunity or tax exemptions to the Marcoses; and that such a grant would be a "direct encroachment on judicial powers, particularly with regard to criminal jurisdiction."

In that same ruling, the Court also warned that a compromise agreement on ill-gotten wealth cases would be tantamount to giving "a license to perpetrate fraud against the government without any liability" and would set "a dangerous precedent for public accountability."

Celebrating corruption

DANILO RAMOS, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, has assailed the PCGG's "new and pragmatic" tack in recovering ill-gotten wealth. "The primary issue here is justice and not only actual recovery of the ill-gotten wealth," he pointed out.

But not for today's PCGG. From Abcede's pronouncements, the quest for ill-gotten wealth must be guided solely by the dictates of pragmatism, and any other consideration is irrelevant. It must be practicality over principle. Money over morality.

With this new guidepost, plunderers have all the reasons to rejoice. For what is there for them to fear now? Lifestyle checks? They can always buy their way out of trouble if the price is right.

In fact, what the government can do for the Marcoses, it might as well do for the Estradas. If the government can't recover all of the Estradas' alleged ill-gotten wealth, it might as well settle with them under a 70-30 sharing scheme. That means abandoning the plunder cases against them, with the immediate effect of saving a couple of million pesos or whatever it would cost the government to pursue the case being heard by the Sandiganbayan.

Then the government should also drop the cases against other government officials, high and low, found to have amassed millions in unexplained wealth. That's the fair thing to do if the most corrupt leaders the country has known, and their families and cronies, will be allowed to go unpunished and to enjoy their loot.

If what Abcede is proposing becomes policy, it will send the message to potential grafters that if they wish to steal from the national treasury, they should steal big-time. And the bigger the loot, the better the chance that they will get to enjoy it. Because the more they can offer to return, the easier it is for the government to forgive and forget that the law has been violated. All that matters is money, money and more money.

Plunder has become a crime punishable with a compromise. Justice no longer matters. The PCGG is setting the stage for the celebration of corruption.

'Utang na loob'

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE ISSUE WAS NOT WHETHER EO 464 WAS valid or void but how the Supreme Court would decide. Its delay in doing so, whether for or against the presidential order, made the waiting more apprehensive.

The reason for this anxiety was the official provenance of the high tribunal as now constituted. Except for two of its members, all the sitting justices have been appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo. The 13 others include the Chief Justice himself who, while initially chosen by a previous president, owes his present position to the author of EO 464.

Utang na loob, or gratitude, is a traditional virtue of our people. It is an honorable motivation in ordinary social and other relations, including business, professional and political ties. All other things being equal, its influence will innocently tip the balance in favor of the person to whom it is honestly owed. Such person will naturally expect reciprocal graciousness for his or her previous goodwill.

The justices knew, of course, that the nullification of EO 464 would embarrass President Arroyo, no matter how bravely she might appear to accept the humiliation. Not particularly known for her forgiving nature, GMA might conceivably change her former amiability (or patronage) with indifference if not actual hostility. These were consequences they would have to expect if they should be so rash as to alienate her.

I mentioned these possibilities several times in this column to express my worries over the impartiality of the present Supreme Court. I said that during my time, the members of the high tribunal, who were all appointed by President Corazon Aquino, did not hesitate to rule against her in several cases involving constitutional issues. I hoped that the present justices would also render their rulings objectively, independently of their personal feelings as we did.

Thankfully, I find that they have done exactly that. The morning their decision was announced, I went to the Supreme Court to get a copy of it. It was superbly written by Justice Conchita Carpio Morales and concurred in by all the other magistrates except Justice Reynato S. Puno, who was on official leave. Even Justice Presbitero J. Velasco Jr., who had just joined the Court, signed with the other members to make their sentiment unanimous.

The Court *en banc* held that the challenged order impinged on the inherent power of inquiry now expressly recognized in Congress or any of its committees when exercised in aid of legislation, subject to the specified limitations. The decision ruled, although it did not directly say so, that in preventing her subordinates from appearing in any legislative investigation without her consent, President Arroyo violated Art. VI, Sec. 21 of the Constitution.

The decision adequately discussed the concept of executive privilege as an exemption from the power of legislative inquiry. The basis for the exception, it said, was the reasons against the investigation—viz., crucial military or diplomatic objectives, the source of the information sought, and confidential official deliberations—to be clearly established and not merely assumed or implied. After examining applicable jurisprudence here and in the United States, the Court held that no such reasons could excuse EO 464.

Among the cases cited by Justice Morales was United States v. Richard M. Nixon, 418 US 863, where the respondent invoked executive privilege in refusing to surrender certain tapes and documents connected with the Watergate scandal. The US Supreme Court rejected his defense. Our own Supreme Court also disallowed GMA's claim of executive privilege in the present case. However, it did this ever so decorously, and with careful protectiveness of Ms Arroyo, that her minions are now fatuously crowing her victory!

The Court discussed other reasons for annulling the challenged order, among them the people's right to information on the matters being investigated by Congress and the ineffectiveness of the order for lack of its publication as required by due process. But to spare the bedraggled President from further discomfiture, it held that the appearance of executive officials at the question hour could not be compelled under Sec. 22 of the same Article.

Morales' *ponencia* deserves congratulation for its excellent craftsmanship. With exceptional tact, she rebuked the President of the Philippines without actually doing so, probably because of her exalted rank or, no less likely, of *utang na loob*. It was a *tour de force* that practically absolved the acknowledged benefactor even as, unavoidably, it could not evade faulting her. The bomb sputtered but did not explode.

For being excessively deferential to Ms Arroyo, the Supreme Court withheld the judicial indignation it should have exhibited, as the conscience of the government, against the serious constitutional affront. Instead of serving as a stern warning against further presidential audacities, the *ponencia* merely made the timid motion of a slap on the wrist. It was like spanking a pampered child with a felt slipper.

'I' witness

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A TEACHER who asked a boy what would happen if she cut off one of his ears.

"My hearing will be affected," was the boy's response.

"What if I cut off both of your ears?" the teacher pushed on.

"My vision will be affected, ma'am," he replied. "Why?"

"Because my eyeglasses would fall," the boy explained.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk 24, 35-48), the Risen Lord again helps the disciples to hear, see and understand the resurrection and the subsequent mission that goes with it. The Lord tries to make them go beyond their initial doubts, fears, amazement and joy, and slowly leads them toward the mission outside themselves.

And so it can happen that if we are glued to our personal quests and questionings, we may never move on toward the big world out there—a world that awaits our love, service, friendship and sharing.

* * *

"You are witnesses of these things." Has it ever occurred to you that by virtue of your Christian baptism, you are supposed to be witnesses of the good news? We all are supposed to be bearers and promoters of Christian values.

* * *

Nowadays, we hear of personalities who are product endorsers. I understand that they get paid a lot for endorsing this or that particular brand. Every Christian is and should be an endorser of Christ. What are you endorsing in your life? Aside from yourself, whom are you endorsing and promoting in your life?

* * *

Sorry. There are no material perks when you become an endorser of Christ. There are no talent fees or endorsement fees involved. (If you happen to have such perks, maybe you are not endorsing him fully!) But one thing sure, there is meaning and peace—a kind of peace which the world cannot give or take away. They who truly endorse Christ may often have empty hands, but they have fully loaded hearts, laden with peace and love. And the returns are really "out of this world"!

* * *

The best cure for the "I" disease is to remove one's focus from the self and shift it instead on others, especially the suffering and less fortunate. Recently, I was at the Philippine Children's Hospital for a Mass when I experienced an unforgettable moment: I was asked to bless the little children at the ICU.

It is heartbreaking to see people suffer, but doubly heartbreaking to see little children suffer. God must feel sad when He sees His children suffer, and doubly sad when He sees the little children and the little ones in our society suffer.

* * *

Archbishop Oscar Cruz mentioned in his homily, during Bishop Mario Peralta's installation as coadjutor of the diocese of Alaminos last April 28, the threefold task of the bishops, the clergy and the laity: to teach, to sanctify and to bear witness as prophets. The good archbishop noted that the hardest thing to do is the third task where, admittedly, we have often failed. For example, it is not easy to stand up for Christ on the socio-economic-political issues confronting us today. Being a prophet and being persecuted for being one are an integral part of our being witnesses to the Word in the world. Have you ever been persecuted because of your faith? If not, maybe, because you are more focused on the profits and not on being a prophet.

* * *

One more day and it's May, the month of flowers, the month of Mary. Once again, as we go through the many problems and issues that confront us as a people and as a nation, let us hold on to our mother who is deeply aware of the sufferings of her children. Soon, the good will be rewarded, and the evildoers will be cast down. Lying and falsehood are not forever. Righteousness, truth and justice will prevail in our beloved land. Let's pray for this intention in our "Walk with God" to Manaoag on Saturday, May 6, starting at 6 a.m. from Urdaneta church.

* * *

Did you know that St. Ezekiel Moreno, canonized in 1990 by Pope John Paul II, was ordained in the Philippines and spent 15 years of mission work here? On the occasion of his 100th death anniversary and the 400th anniversary of the Augustinian Recollects in the Philippines, Fr. Ferdinand Hernando, OAR, together with co-workers Sonia Roco, Rose Orbos, Boying Banzon and others, is organizing a caravan that will start in Bataan on May 1 and in Pangasinan on May 3 and 4.

* * *

Did you read how one newspaper highlighted the issue of death penalty? "Bilibid or Not!" As we go through the many struggles and tasks in this life, let us not forget some humor.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, heal me of my "I" disease, so that I can be an "I" witness to your love and peace. Amen.

Revolt of the retired generals

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

LAST WEEK, SIX RETIRED SENIOR GENERALS of the US armed forces publicly criticized Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and called for his ouster. Never before has a sitting defense secretary been subjected to such a scathing public rebuke from former military leaders. According to the April 24 issue of Time magazine, "the retired generals are taking on their boss not over policy or budgets but the operation of an on-going war ... and there is some evidence that the retirees are speaking for other generals on active duty."

Some of their comments:

Gen. Anthony Zinni, former commander of the US Central Command which has overall responsibility for the conduct of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan—"Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld is not competent to lead our armed forces .... he has shown himself incompetent strategically, operationally and tactically and, far more than anyone else, responsible for what has happened to our mission in Iraq. Mr. Rumsfeld must step down."

Maj. Gen. Paul Eaton, former US commander for training Iraqi forces—"We went to war with a flawed plan that didn't account for the hard work to build the peace after we took down the regime. We also served under a Secretary of Defense who didn't understand leadership, who was abusive, who was arrogant, who didn't build a strong team."

Maj. Gen. John Riggs—"Rumsfeld and his advisers grossly underestimated the number of soldiers required for the stability phase. They only need the military advise when it satisfies their agenda. I think that's a mistake and that's why I think he should resign."

Lt. Gen. Gregory Newbold, former Director of Operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff—"The commitment of our forces to this fight was done with a casualness and swagger that are the special province of those who had never had to execute these missions—or bury the results .... a fundamentally flawed plan was executed for an invented war, while pursuing the real enemy, al-Qaeda, became a secondary effort."

Ironically, the one officer who warned Secretary Rumsfeld early in the day that occupying Iraq would require several hundred thousand troops was not among those calling for his resignation.

In June 1999, President Bill Clinton appointed Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, of West Point class 1965, as the 34th US army chief of staff. He became the first military officer of Japanese ancestry to hold the position; and the highest-ranking Asian-American soldier in US military history. Unfortunately, his tour of duty as chief of staff was marked by clashes with Pentagon officials, specifically Rumsfeld and his deputy Paul Wolfowitz, now president of the World Bank.

Sometime in 2003, Shinseki testified in Congress that a large number of troops would be required for Iraq. This was based on his experience as head of a peacekeeping force in Bosnia. For his remarks—which were in conflict with the swift, lean force advocated by Rumsfeld—Shinseki was publicly castigated by Rumsfeld and Wolfowitz. He became a lame duck with the early announcement of his successor. Both Rumsfeld and Wolfowitz stayed away from Shinseki's retirement ceremony in June 2003.

At that time, I was in the United States visiting my grandchildren in Illinois. I recall Shinseki's remarks at the farewell ceremonies marking his retirement from the military service. He began by saying, "My name is Shinseki and I am a soldier ... an American soldier who was born in the midst of World War II, began his service in Vietnam and retires today in the midst of war in Afghanistan and Iraq. Soldiering is an honorable profession and I am privileged to have served every day for the past 38 years as a soldier."

Dwelling on the distinction between command and effective leadership, Shinseki explained that "command is about authority, about appointment to a position. Effective leadership is different. It must be learned and practiced in order for it to rise to the level of art." He went on to say "You must love those you lead before you can be an effective leader. You can certainly command without that sense of commitment but you cannot lead without it; and without leadership, command is a hollow experience ... a vacuum often filled with mistrust and arrogance."

He ended his remarks with the line with which he started, "My name is Shinseki and I am a soldier. God bless all of you and your families. Thank you and goodbye."

* * *

As retired officers, we continue to have a stake in the future of our country. It is our duty to speak out whenever we see something wrong in the way our armed forces is being handled by the civilian leadership. I realize that many of our retired officers hold comfortable jobs in government corporations or agencies. They may not be inclined to publicly express opinions unfavorable to the administration. On the other hand, officers on active status are not allowed to engage in public debates, and so they operate in an environment of silence and obedience. That leaves only the retired group to take the lead in any critical review of government policies that affect the armed forces.

Rumsfeld and Bush may shrug off the revolt of the retired generals, but there is no doubt that it has created considerable discomfort in the Pentagon and the White House.

* * *

Tomorrow is the 76th birth anniversary of Alex Melchor Jr. To commemorate the event, family and friends will gather for Mass at noon at the Holy Family Chapel in Virra Mall Greenhills. Lunch follows at Club Filipino.

Celebrating fandom

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT'S BEEN CALLED THE "HAPPIEST MOVIE" OF this summer season, and indeed laughter rings out often and loudly in the movie house while "D' Lucky Ones" is being shown.

Much of the credit for the laughter and guffaws, as well as the charm and overall lighthearted feeling of the movie, goes to the tandem of Pokwang and Eugene Domingo. Playing a pair of die-hard Vilmanians (fans of Vilma Santos, for those out of the show-biz loop) who end up lifelong best friends who "pledge" their children to each other, the comediennes ham it up shamelessly and set the film's blistering pace of razor-sharp dialog and comic antics.

The two had previously made a name for themselves as "supporting" characters, comic foil to romantic leads or as "best friends" to beleaguered heroines. Most TV viewers, though, will remember them as "housemaids" in one *telenovela* and sitcom or another, a role that every aspirant in these parts needs to nail, it seems, before she can join the comic sorority.

They might have been stuck indefinitely in this purgatory of second leads had it not been for "D' Lucky Ones," a movie that puts them front and center, gives them plenty of room and screen time to show off their chops, and allows them to mouth lines that parody the most memorable scenes from Ate Vi's body of work—at once familiar and risible.

While the "lucky ones" in the movie are actually Sandara Park and Joseph Bitangcol, who play Pokwang's and Eugene's "Lucky Girl" and "Lucky Boy" respectively, the movie really centers around the mothers, who so dominate and beguile that I found myself distressed and bothered each time the movie left them and devoted time to the "love story" angle.

* * *

I'M sorry to say that Park and Bitangcol, notwithstanding their "real-life" romantic relationship, hardly register any chemistry between them. Park is difficult to understand, since she has a tendency to let her Filipino lines run together. Bitangcol has yet to feel at ease before the camera, since his acting seems to consist mainly of poses and facial mannerisms. At times, one can even catch him sneaking a furtive look at the camera when he shouldn't.

So it's safe to say that the movie succeeds despite them, which is why I hope producers don't attribute any magical box-office prowess to the youngsters. Instead, they should pay attention to the newly gained clout of Pokwang and Domingo who, like Ai-Ai de las Alas, labored in obscurity before proving that screen charisma has little to do with an actor's looks or figure, and everything to do with the ability to connect with the audience.

Perhaps it also helps that "D' Lucky Ones" takes a fond look at fandom, an occupational hazard for any consumer of entertainment fare, and the lengths fans go just to pay homage to their object of affection, adoration and adulation. The "Nora" and "Vilma" fans are particularly fascinating, since the two women commanded extraordinary levels of loyalty in their heyday and even today, no matter the intriguing twists and turns of their life stories.

* * *

MY friend Peachy and I—whom I roped into watching "D' Lucky Ones" after all family members refused my importuning—had an interesting discussion about the nature of Vilmanians and Noranians. We both agreed that the overall tone of the movie, which is "happy" and "sunny" and pastel-toned, wouldn't have been possible if it had been about Nora's fans. And this is because Nora's oeuvre is dominated by darker and grimmer movies that don't lend themselves easily to comic parody or satire.

I consider myself a Noranian, but the film turned me into a Vilmanian, and when Ate Vi no less turned up at the movie's finale, I felt a thrill, vicariously diving into Pokwang's and Eugene's obsession. I also felt a surge of appreciation and gratitude for the work of Vilma and Nora, who have dominated show business in the last decades, coming up with a truly admirable lineup of movies, showing courage in their choice of new challenges and off-beat characters, and maintaining a hold on their fans' affections.

Fans can be pests, that's true. They tend to take their "ownership" over their idols much too seriously, to the extent of stalking them, dictating their love lives and setting up outsize expectations. But over the years, they can provide a source of affirmation and validation, especially when the bloom of one's stardom has started to fade.

Neither is this a one-way street. As Pokwang's character reveals, watching Vilma's movies and tracking her career provided her the only source of solace in the years she spent as a contract wife in Korea, looked down upon by her in-laws and reduced to a superfluity. Indeed, amid the vexations of daily life, being a fan provides escape and entertainment, another level of reality and a pleasant diversion. Not a bad bargain, that.

* * *

PERFECT for the still-searing heat of the season is New Selecta Lite, a new line of ice cream that is, so the maker claims, "94 percent fat free and has 35 percent less sugar." Tubs of this new line of ice cream were hand-delivered to my home, and I lost no time sampling the samples.

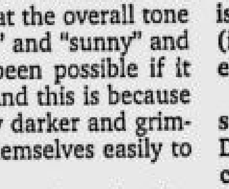
I had a taste of "Very Rocky Road" and I can vouch for the rich creamy flavor, unlike the bland fat-free versions I tried in the United States. For a diabetic like me, indulging in ice cream is truly a guilty pleasure, so Selecta Lite is a welcome addition to my freezer, mitigating (if not entirely eliminating) the sin and the dietary crime.

Aside from Very Rocky Road, Selecta Lite also comes in two other flavor variants: Double Dutch and Cookies and Cream. Who says you can't have your ice cream and guilt-less enjoyment, too?

The end of consensual politics

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David



NOT A FEW PEOPLE FROM BOTH THE opposition and the administration were surprised by the launching of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Cha-cha Express. The resort to "people's initiative" as the vehicle for Charter change effectively demobilizes Congress. It transfers political debate from the halls of Congress to the uncharted terrain of public forums and mass actions. This open-ended political space is not particularly hospitable to politicians; its agenda cannot be controlled.

In many ways, what we are witnessing here is the end of consensual politics. This is a direct offshoot of the inability of the political system to arrive at a satisfactory closure of the issues thrust upon it. This failure breeds intense mutual distrust, and encourages a zero-sum approach to politics. The government believes it can no longer deal with the opposition-dominated Senate; so it seeks its abolition. The opposition believes it can no longer deal with Ms Arroyo; so it seeks her ouster.

This is not the way politics is supposed to work. Politics is supposed to serve as society's mechanism for arriving at collectively binding decisions. In stable democracies, such decisions are the outcomes of reasoned debate between the government and the opposition, or between the majority party and the minority party. The clarity of the arguments and the transparency of the procedures for arriving at a consensus create legitimacy for the whole system. The decisions that the system regularly churns out assume the force of law and are accepted by the public.

We know that our political system has ground to a halt when every year, for the last four years, we failed twice to pass the national budget and twice to pass it on time. The budget is supposed to mirror a nation's targets and priorities. Throughout Ms Arroyo's presidency, we have had to make do with a reenacted or "delayed" budget, as if time has stopped for us. The whole budget process has become a theater of the absurd, where politicians of every stripe flash their teeth to secure concessions or extract information from hapless civil servants.

Because so many questions have been left unanswered by the Arroyo administration, one can hardly fault the opposition for using the power of congressional investigation to get some answers from her minions. In this manner is lost so much precious time that should have gone into productive legislative work.

Executive Order 464, which effectively bars top officials of the bureaucracy and the armed services from appearing in congressional hearings without the approval of the President, is born of the distrust that has accumulated in the system since the Garci tapes scandal. It took a while before the Supreme Court could decide on the constitutionality of this order. In the meanwhile, relations between the senators and the President have taken a turn for the worse. The prevailing mutual hostility prevents both parties from interpreting the Supreme Court ruling in a give-and-take way.

We see this too in the way both the government and the opposition claim victory over the Supreme Court decision that declares as unconstitutional the government's "calibrated preemptive response" policy on rallies. The decision strikes down CPR but upholds the validity of the law regulating public assemblies. As expected, both sides have claimed victory in this latest decision. Instead of stabilizing notions of what is legal and illegal, the high court's ruling may have unwittingly provided ammunition that both sides can use to shoot one another.

In the final analysis, we cannot expect the judicial system to resolve problems that are basically political in origin. Locked in conflict, the parties are bound to read even the clearest court ruling through the prism of their respective political agendas.

Thus, political questions must be resolved politically. Where Congress loses its function as an instrument of consensual politics, we may increasingly be treated to the spectacle of legislators marching in the streets alongside leaders of social movements. We caught a glimpse of this seemingly strange alliance at the recent launching of "STOP (Sa Tamang Oras at Panahon) Cha-cha"—a broad coalition of politicians and social activists, aimed at derailing Ms Arroyo's push for Charter change through people's initiative. It is too early to say how this tactical partnership will progress and what new political combinations it will spawn. One thing is sure though: the present political system has reached its breaking point. One cannot imagine how this can be reversed.

The present political crisis started as a crisis of presidential legitimacy. Now it is engulfing the whole political system. When the issues against the President began to accumulate, the administration found itself calling upon the coercive powers of the state to block the flow of information. Every unresolved issue generates more pressure that the administration is unable to contain without doing further damage to the other institutions of government.

This is how political systems die. But their passing signifies the birth of new visions and the tapping of new sources of legitimacy.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Longest sigh of relief

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

LAST NIGHT, I HAD A DREAM.

In my dream, four little green monsters, wearing shirts emblazoned with Spanish conjugations, were rushing toward me, screaming gibberish and waving pitchforks. I ran for my life, wailing the one phrase I knew. *"No comprendo, no comprendo!"*

I woke up to an alarm clock gone mad. Nine-forty in the morning. By the time I popped off the bed, I was on adrenaline high.

I'm not a morning person—in the five-second scramble to the bathroom, the panic reaches mammoth proportions. My brain takes a while to kick into gear, but when it does, everything comes slamming in like a 16-wheeler truck: 40 more pages of thesis to revise before one o'clock, a Spanish quiz in the afternoon, not to mention a grand total of 19 minutes to get dressed, jump into a jeep and sprint to class before the professor locks the door.

Then boom, realization. It's the sweetest feeling in the world.

I was a graduate last Saturday, among several hundred others standing under the blinding heat of an April sun. I've never been asked to follow a dress code in my whole stay at UP—after all, a college that permits a bunch of fraternity men to run buck naked through the campus is not exactly in a position to tell students what to wear. But for this one occasion, graduation, the rule was white to off-white, with a ban on sleeveless tops, halters, spaghetti straps, tubes and hems above the knee—for both boys and girls, naturally. You never know what to expect.

And in the grand tradition of the University of the Philippines, nobody followed the dress code—except for me and few other gullible souls. I spent a good part of graduation trying to pull down my neckline.

My department, Speech Communications and Theater Arts, was one of the last to be called. I was shifting from foot to foot when one of the Theater guys' name was called. A couple of cannons shot streamers into the air, balloons brought up a banner that declared the young gentleman as "Wagna Cum Laude" *(sic)*, while members of the Pep Squad raced to the front and joined him in the UP cheer. The final stunt—theater boy gets tossed up, pumps a fist into the air, and spreads his arms to the sky. He does all this in the space of a few minutes while dressed in a *barong tagalog* and black leather shoes.

I began thinking feverishly for a stunt to pull myself. Then, in my head, I saw myself being thrown into the air and my skirt ballooning over my face. I decided the prudent thing to do was to worship from afar.

While waiting for my name to be called, my mother kept warning me not to trip. "Don't you dare," she said. She insisted my father hold on to my arm. A minute before I was called, she grabbed my father's other arm, "Hon, hold on to me, I wore the wrong shoes, I might trip." My hapless father was left trying to assist two women teetering on high heels, clutching his arms up the stage. Compared to the months of panic, tension and sheer, unadulterated exhaustion, getting my diploma seemed anticlimactic.

Graduation has a particularly insidious side effect (read: boredom). Having time on my hands now feels as awkward as wearing those garterized bloomers in fourth grade PE class. Yesterday, I found myself wandering around the campus, plodding from building to building with nothing in particular to do. I bought a 10-peso romance novel, a bottle of iced tea and sat down on a bench to reflect about the future. As I'm not the type to sit on benches reflecting—especially when reflection leads to the grim conclusion that my bank balance is in the double digits—I lasted two minutes before I was flagging down a jeep.

My grandfather, my mom's dad, was a writer himself. When I was 12, he found out I was harboring illusions of becoming a writer, too. He called me to his study, and proceeded to inform me that writing was a thankless job, and that he wanted no granddaughter of his to go through what he did. That being said, he asked if I was still planning to write. I said yes. He shook his head, picked up one of his perpetual blue markers and wrote something on a sheet of note paper. I must have lost that sheet the same day, but I remember what it said. "1st topic: What I will be when I grow up. Submit to Lolo by Friday. Ten pesos."

Eight years later, after several career shifts (I wanted to be a philosopher, a spy, a lawyer, an astronaut, a public relations practitioner, a princess and a race car driver), I'm back to square one. What I'll be when I grow up is still up in the air—as no one who knows me will even remotely suggest that I'm "grown-up." Most of my friends have been going to job interview after job interview, while my resumés are floating out there somewhere waiting to be considered.

As I'm currently in limbo, I've been working on widening my Filipino vocabulary with a new genre I've just recently discovered: Tagalog romances. The last one I read had Jullius Caezar "JC" Ledesma—"The Black-hearted Devil," scion of a multibillion-peso construction empire—finding his match in the daughter of one of his employees. Now if some "handsome, gorgeous, rich and powerful" 29-year-old multibillionaire would like to save me from my uncertainties, I wouldn't mind at all. Applications can be sent to the e-mail address indicated below.

When people think of graduation, most of them remember marching down the aisle, or the whoops and cheers and tossed togas. They remember the hugs from much-feared professors, the promises of eternal friendship, the instant when the diploma was given.

Me, I'll never forget this morning—the moment when I stared into the bathroom mirror, bleary-eyed, half-blind, thoroughly flustered, finally realizing that I will never, ever, have to worry about little green monsters with Spanish accents, again.

* * *

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THEY SAID

No secrets

"Except perhaps for affairs of the heart, *lahat nang gagawin ni* Mike *alam ni* Gloria." (Everything Mike does is known to Gloria.)

—Cielo Macapagal-Salgado, half-sister of President Macapagal-Arroyo

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

TALK of the TOWN

Where the jobs are

IN JANUARY, 2.8 MILLION FILIPINOS WERE JOBLESS, 6.9 MILLION were seeking additional jobs and 1.1 million had stopped looking for work apparently because they could not find any, according to data from the National Statistics Office.

That's a total of 10.8 million people out of the 36-million workforce who need jobs.

The numbers show that the country is facing an employment crisis, a situation not lost on the tens of thousands of Filipinos leaving for work abroad every year.

But the Department of Labor and Employment does not call it a crisis, saying that jobs are aplenty. The unemployment problem is due to a mismatch between the skills for available jobs and the skills of those seeking work, according to the labor department.

Trade Secretary Peter Favila has another explanation for the unemployment problem. "We have plenty of jobs available in the country today, but the problem is some Filipinos are just choosy," he said.

It's a statement that millions of jobless workers will find outrageous.

If jobs are available in the country, Filipinos will not leave for work overseas despite the social costs that go with earning a living far from home.

Seven sectors could create 4 million opportunities

By Jay T. Julian

THE MEDIUM TERM PHILIPPINE Development Plan: 2005-2010 underscores the importance of creating decent employment opportunities in alleviating poverty. To realize this goal, government efforts are geared toward enhancing sectors identified as key employment generators.

During the 2006 National Manpower Summit on March 2, nine sectors were identified that would require a great number of workers equipped with specific knowledge and skills. These are:

1. Cyberservices
2. Agribusiness
3. Aviation
4. Hotel and restaurant
5. Medical tourism
6. Health services
7. Mining
8. Creative industries and
9. Overseas employment.

The sectors' key informants and stakeholders, who participated in the second pre-summit consultation workshops, said around 577,718 and 692,004 job opportunities were expected to be generated in 2006 and 2007, respectively. Between 2006 and 2010, a total of 4.08 million jobs are expected to be created in the key sectors (*See Table.*)

Customer care

Some jobs under each sector would grow faster than the others. In the next four years, five subsectors would account for nearly 80 percent of the total number of projected jobs.

These are customer care (735,500) and back office processing (393,100); aquaculture (338,287) and crop production (1,480,260); and food and beverage (281,040).

Ensuring that these job opportunities are filled up by qualified workers—those able to meet standards set by the industry—is a challenge to both government and the private sector.

While these sectors offer a great number of employment opportunities for job seekers, some of these sectors are already experiencing difficulties in getting the right workers.

Skills shortage

While shortages of skills are said to be pronounced in some occupations and areas in the country, oversupply of other skills are likewise observed.

For example, employment opportunities for cyberservices are estimated at 1,383,892 compared with the projected number of 1,791,489 professionals for 2006-2010.

Nevertheless, graduates of the various cyberservices disciplines are projected to reach 1,633,605 from 2006 to 2010.

In the hotel and restaurant sector, jobs would grow by 400,280 but there would only be 95,294 graduates of this discipline during the same period.

This "square-pegs, round-holes" phenomenon has significantly affected the operations of the labor market, including several of the nine sectors. As a result of this demand-and-supply bottleneck, a great number of job opportunities may not be filled up.

This dire situation might be further aggravated as changes in manpower requirements become more rapid given the fast-changing demand for skills in the global labor market in which the Philippines is a major supplier.

The National Manpower Summit tackled ways of addressing structural unemployment.

Geographic mismatch

Structural unemployment basically results from a mismatch between the skills for available jobs and the skills possessed by those seeking work, and from geographic mismatch between locations of job openings and job seekers (McConnell et al., 2003).

During the summit, initial steps were laid down to create ripples of doable and strategic reports.

Arturo Sodusta, assistant labor secretary for programs and policy, presented an action agenda that was formulated to ensure that: (1) jobs (with specific competencies) that are in-demand are identified in the short- and medium-terms, (2) linkages between an industry and schools and training institutions are at work, and (3) the types of workers needed by emerging industries in the country and the rest of the world are generated.

The stakeholders should be aggressive in finding ways to address the problems and gaps in the matching of the labor demand and supply. For its part, the government through its various agencies is ready to mitigate the adverse effects of acute manpower shortages—especially those caused by migration—that are being experienced by some sectors.

Prior notice

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration plans to evaluate industries experiencing a shortage of mission-critical skills, according to Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas.

In local industries with a shortage of workers, a six-month prior notice rule has been proposed for those who desire to take up jobs abroad. Pilots and aircraft mechanics are subject to this rule effective April 1.

On the supply side, the labor secretary proposed the creation of opportunities advisory boards in schools to help students decide which college course would bring them employment after graduation.

Re-training of instructors, revision of curricula and incentives may also be given to schools with a high number of employable graduates. Bridging courses and additional training may be provided to those who had graduated but remained unemployed.

Government scholarships and study grants may also be offered to students planning to work in vital industries.

(Julian is the officer in charge of the Information and Publication Service of the Department of Labor and Employment.)

Projected number of new jobs by sector

Sector	2006	2007	2006-2010
1. Agribusiness	329,609	372,317	2,044,161
2. Cyberservices	148,350	204,146	1,383,890
3. Hotels & Restaurants	56,001	69,028	400,280
4. Medical Tourism	25,310	25,310	128,150
5. Health Services	8,066	9,455	58,003
6. Mining	6,672	7,298	39,382
7. Aviation	3,710	4,450	27,581
TOTAL	577,718	692,004	4,081,447

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES/PAGE DESIGN BY ERNIE SAMBO

Fairs no match to employment shortage

By Clarence Pascual

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR and Employment (DOLE) is sorely amiss for insisting that a jobs-skills mismatch is behind the current job crisis and that more job fairs and training will bring down unemployment.

The current job crisis can be attributed not to a skills mismatch but to a massive mismatch between the number of jobs the economy is generating and the number of jobless workers.

Job fairs and training are not enough to resolve the huge jobs deficit. The government must raise the ability of the economy to employ a rapidly growing and increasingly skilled labor force.

Vacancies

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas earlier said that there were thousands of quality jobs left unfilled due to a mismatch between the skills required and the skills possessed by applicants, implying that there was no shortage of jobs in the labor market.

She cited the 50,000 vacancies posted on the Phil-Jobnet system, an on-line job search system maintained by the DOLE. Of this number, however, 35 percent or 18,000 consist of overseas jobs. That leaves only 32,000 vacancies in the country.

Recently, the government launched a tourism job fair, with some 30,000 jobs on offer, according to organizers. Many of the jobs on offer are not actual vacancies. "For labor pooling only" reads the brochure of a number of participating manpower agencies.

Sto. Tomas has repeatedly argued that "there are quality jobs available, [but] the problem lies in mismatch or the challenge of filling them up with qualified" workers.

Unemployment rate

Even if there is no skills mismatch, job fairs are not likely to make a dent on the high unemployment rate. In Metro Manila alone, the unemployment rate is a high 18.4 percent in January 2006, compared with the national average of 10.7 percent, according to the National Statistics Office.

Jobless workers in Metro Manila reached 926,000 in the same month. Add to this another one million unemployed workers in Central Luzon and the Calabarzon area.

Joblessness is particularly acute among young people. In January 2005 there were some 1.8 million unemployed workers aged 15-24 or an unemployment rate of 22.2 percent, compared with the average of 10.7 percent for workers of all ages.

Women

Women workers in the 15-24 age group have the highest unemployment rate at 25 percent, compared with 20.5 percent among male counterparts. Their number reached 715,000 in January 2005.

By education, workers with higher educational attainment reported a higher unemployment rate. In 2002, the latest year for which data is available, unemployment among workers with college education was 13.8 percent, compared with 11.6 percent for those with high school education, and 6.0 percent for those with elementary education.

There were 1.3 million jobless workers who had reached college in January 2005, including 668,000 degree holders. High unemployment even among the relatively educated workers indicates the inability of the economy to generate adequate quality jobs.

A closer look at the unfilled vacancies in the DOLE's Phil-Jobnet system shows that the skills shortage is in occupations hit by significant migration as well as in the fast growing call center and business processes outsourcing (BPO).

Migration

Among the top 20 vacancies currently available in the system include customer service assistants, professional nurses, technical support staff, computer systems engineers, and agents. Some of the posted vacancies are actually overseas jobs.

The high demand for call center and BPO agents simply reflects the rapid growth of the industry combined with high employee turnover owing to industry-specific reasons.

The same pattern of skills shortage is also apparent in the results of the National Manpower Summit which identified some 200,000 potential jobs in several "hard-to-fill" occupations like call center agents, software programmers, trained nurses, waiters, aquaculturists, cooks, finance accountants, skilled miners, animators, aircraft mechanics, and front office attendants.

Workers in these occupations have been leaving the country in droves in recent years, creating shortages in local industries.

Agenda

President Macapgal-Arroyo herself acknowledged the existence of an unemployment crisis when she made job creation the number one item on her administration's 10-point agenda. At the start of her second term in 2004, Ms Arroyo vowed to generate 6 million to 10 million jobs in six years or 1 million to 1.5 million new jobs a year.

Recently, top administration officials have been issuing statements denying the existence of a jobs crisis, in effect rendering the administration's 10-point agenda irrelevant. Do they have a different agenda?

That would be unfortunate because the numbers show the economy remains mired in a massive job deficit. In 2005, close to 11 million workers or 30 percent of the 32 million strong labor force were looking for work.

This number included over 4 million jobless Filipinos (up from 3 million in 1998, a recession year) and 7 million underemployed workers.

Nor has job creation improved since Ms Arroyo made her promise. In 2005, net job creation was 700,000, less than half the official target, and down from 980,000 the year before.

Prospects

Prospects for the near and medium term do not look any brighter. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) projects GDP growth to average 5 to 6 percent in 2006-2010.

Based on this forecast and using the relationship between job growth and GDP growth in the last seven years, 1998-2005, we estimate annual job creation to range from 700,000 to 850,000. In other words, the administration is likely to miss its annual job creation target until 2010, deepening the current crisis in the labor market.

The worsening job crisis in the midst of respectable economic expansion indicates a fundamental weakness in the current development strategy. Current policies are producing the desired results. We need a new economic strategy.

(Pascual is a senior researcher at the Labor Education and Research Network.)

2 Bayan Muna members killed in span of 3 days

BAAO, CAMARINES SUR—TWO COordinators of party-list group Bayan Muna in two upland villages in this town and neighboring Iriga City were abducted and killed in a span of three days, spawning terror in areas where the leftist group maintains active chapters.

Jariz Vida, Bayan Muna provincial coordinator here, identified the two victims as Jesus Bustinera, 62, of Barangay Caranday-La Purisima, and Ronald Comerciase, 26, both of them farmers. He said they were abducted and killed on Wednesday and Friday this week, respectively, in separate incidents.

Vida said Comerciase was found dead with gunshot wounds several meters from his house after he was kidnapped by hooded armed men at about 9 p.m. Friday.

Bustinera was found dead inside a house a half-kilometer from his own home early morning Thursday with deep knife wounds in his chest and stomach.

Bustinera's daughter, Diana, 22, said her father was seized by about 20 hooded men armed with long firearms. She said the family was told Bustinera was to be brought to a nearby school for questioning.

Diana's younger brother Roberto, the first to see the body of Bustinera where it was discovered, said: "My father's hands and feet were bound with abaca rope. He was laid face up, head a bit tilted."

Vida said Bustinera and Comerciase were the third and fourth Bayan Muna members in the province summarily executed this year. He said four other attempts were made on the lives of five members and leaders in Naga City and in the towns of Del Gallego, Ragay and Caramoan.

Vida said Bayan Muna had active members regularly participating in its protest actions in 28 towns of Camarines Sur.

Caranday barangay chief Acenes Vargas said members of the village council took it upon themselves to inspect the crime scene where Bustinera was found dead after local policemen begged off from going up to the village.

SPO3 Antonio Beseño, Baao police chief investigator, said it was dangerous to respond to calls for assistance because Caranday was under the jurisdiction of the Philippine Army.

Beseño said the police needed to coordinate first with the Army's intelligence unit before they could proceed to the village.

Bustinero's brother, Francisco, said the family had done away with an autopsy because no doctor was available to perform it.

"I told the police that we will not file any case because we cannot identify the persons who abducted my brother, and besides, we have no money to sustain a court case," he said. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Beheading suspect nabbed

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A SUSPECTED MEMBER of the Abu Sayyaf who allegedly took part in the beheading of American tourist Guillermo Sobero in June 2001 was arrested in the outskirts of Isabela, Basilan, yesterday, the military reported.

Brig. Gen. Raymundo Ferrer, commander of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade, said Abdasil Dima was arrested during a raid by an elite team of US-trained Philippine commandos.

"We took him by complete surprise," Ferrer told reporters, adding the militant was believed to have been involved in the beheading of Sobero, who was kidnapped with 20 others, including American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham, from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan in May 2001.

The Abu Sayyaf is suspected of having links to the al-Qaida and Jemaah Islamiyah terrorist networks.

Ferrer said Dima, who belonged to the Abu Sayyaf faction headed by the late Hamsiraji Sali, was arrested based on a warrant issued by a local court.

"He did not resist," he said.

In General Santos City, a Pentagon gang member involved in several high profile abductions in Central Mindanao was arrested in nearby Koronadal City, police said yesterday.

The Pentagon is a key ally of the Abu Sayyaf.

Senior Supt. Willie Dangane, Central Mindanao police intelligence chief, told reporters Karutin Montawal, alias Kautin Mamangkong, was arrested on Wednesday. He carried a P175,000 bounty on his head.

He said the suspect was among the Pentagon members who abducted five Chinese engineers working on a government irrigation project in North Cotabato in June 2001. *Julie S. Alipala and Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and Reuters*

MEDICard - Sun Life Financial Signing

Sun Life Financial, one of the largest diversified financial services organizations in the Philippines, recently signed its corporate healthcare agreement with MEDICard Philippines. (seated L-R) MEDICard's Luis S. Montoya (EVP & GM) and Dr. Nicanor D. Montoya with Sun Life's Lorenzo V. Tan (President and CEO), Eduardo C. Salem (VP-HR) and Florian C. De Leon (Director-HR). (standing L-R) MEDICard's Dr. Voltaire R. Victoria (Sales & Business Dev't. Mngr.) and Robert T. Chainani (Sr. Membership Consultant) with Sun Life's Mila G. Guevara (Compensation Mngr.), Myrna R. Magboo (Mngr., Payroll and Benefits Admin.) and Romerico A. Rianzares (Mngr., Group Sales).

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36th Annual Convention

EDSA Shangri-la Hotel l May 3 - 6, 2006

Theme: Redefining the Compleat Physician Today

Messages

Greetings to the men and women of the Philippine College of Physicians as you hold your 36th Annual Convention.

Our administration is relentlessly implementing innovations and policies to improve the delivery of public health services and safeguard the Filipino's health. We are committed to bring the benefits of our economic reforms to the grassroots level through better social services delivery.

This convention is a manifestation of your commitment to public health and pursuit of excellence in advancing the science and practice of internal medicine and its related sub-specialties. I hope that your group shall continually strive to serve the most vulnerable sectors of our society. Always be responsive to our people's needs and relevant to our times.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippine

Malacañan Palace
Manila

Warm felicitation to the officers and members of the Philippine College of Physicians (PCP) as they hold their 36th Annual Convention.

On this momentous event, I would like to express my gratitude for your support to the implementation of the various health programs of the Department. As you highlight the need for continuous professional advancement of your members, may you continue your efforts of improving the health and welfare of our countrymen through quality healthcare service.

As you look forward to a better and brighter future for our health system, I encourage you to sustain your initiatives on rendering excellent service and ensuring a stranger health system for the prevention and control of various diseases.

May you continue your steadfast commitment towards the advancement of our country's health professionals.

Congratulations and mabuhay kayong lahat!

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc.
Secretary of Health

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Warm greetings to everyone!

On behalf of the Officers and Governors of the Philippine Medical Association, I would like to congratulate the Organizing Committee of the 36th Annual Convention of the Philippine College of Physicians.

We appreciate your efforts for bringing the best minds in internal medicine to share their expertise. Surely, the standard of services of our colleagues would be improved as they learn additional knowledge and skills from the convention which would be of great help to our countrymen.

Best wishes for a successful convention.

MODESTO O. LLAMAS, M.D.
PMA President

PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
PMA Building, North Avenue
Quezon City

It is with joy and privilege that we welcome all the members, medical practitioners and healthcare providers and partners to the 36th Annual Convention of the Philippine College of Physicians.

The Organizing Committee has developed a scientific program that is truly interesting, challenging, and relevant and surely worth the precious time we shall be devoting to this meeting.

Thank you for joining us.

VENANCIO I. GLORIA, MD, FPCP
President

Philippine College of Physicians
One San Miguel Avenue
Pasig City

Warm greetings from the Organizing Committee of the 36th Annual PCP convention.

The Scientific Committee made up of its core members, together with the regional counterparts from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao have prepared what is best and suited for the general internist during our convention. We have reviewed, collated and merged concepts and ideas from last year's scientific committee programs, to our current envisioned proposed plans. At the same time, our research committee and PCP quiz contest committee have also programmed their activities that will make your attendance more important and memorable. At the Socials and Fellowship Night, we have prepared an evening of talents and presentations that will make you enjoy as a guest and maybe, as a participant.

RENE I. JUANEZA, M.D., FPCP
Vice President
and Overall Chair, Organizing Committee
36th Annual Convention

Philippine College of Physicians
One San Miguel Avenue
Pasig City

Medicine, in the early times, succeeded mainly in providing comfort. Cure was elusive as knowledge in the sciences was limited and the experimentation method took time to take roots. On the other hand, the explosion of medical data has made contemporary medicine not just curative in focus but increasingly technically evidence based. More and more guidelines with explicit evidence ratings are getting published by specialty organizations.

Yet, clinical practice today remained "fuzzy" rather than exact. Patients do not always fall into a specific diagnostic and treatment category. Serious side effects have surfaced despite multi-center clinical trials recruiting thousands of patients. Non-biomedical concerns came in that way of achieving a successful outcome. Before DOTS (directly observed therapy, short-course), for example, TB treatment with highly effective drugs was only 50% successful! In practicing his trade, internist is under the challenge appling the caboodle of precise scientific principles to real life and non-mutually exclusive situations. How else could the concept of dynamic hyperinflation in COPD be better explained to grandfather than by way of recalling how pursed-lip breathing enabled him to play with his favorite grandchild longer!

The scientific program this year attempts to highlight the process with which medical data is generated, guidelines are written and clinical practice is enhanced. Medico-legal, ethical, public health and other collateral concerns are included to emphasize the importance of the milieu in molding clinical behavior. Inputs from the general membership, provincial chapters, component and affiliate societies guided the choice of topics to be included in the 3-day activity. Speakers and facilitators were invited from all over the country in order to put the discussions in local and national perspectives.

In behalf of a collegial scientific committee whose membership bridges the various disciplines in IM and whose collective dynamism is derived from the experience of professors and the aggressiveness of youthful colleagues, I take great pleasure in extending you the invitation to be part of this scientific exercise.

CAMILO C. ROA, JR. M.D., FPCP
Chair, Scientific Committee
36th Annual Convention

Philippine College of Physicians
One San Miguel Avenue
Pasig City

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2006 College Awardees

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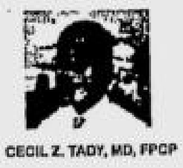
Distinguished Internist Award



CECIL Z. TADY, MD, FPCP

Distinguished Fellow Award

ANTHONY G. LEACHON., MD, FPCP

Distinguished Fellow Award

ROGELIO V. TANGCO., MD, FPCP

TIME	May 3 (Wednesday)	May 4 (Thursday)	May 5 (Friday)	May 6 (Saturday)
7:30		Breakfast Sessions I [illegible]	Breakfast Sessions II [illegible]	Breakfast Sessions III [illegible]
8:00	REGISTRATION RESEARCH PRE-CONVENTION SEMINAR GOLF TOURNAMENT / BADMINTON TOURNAMENT	POSTER SESSION I	POSTER SESSION II	POSTER SESSION III
8:30				
8:45		Set up of Plenary Session	Set up of Plenary Session	Set up of Plenary Session
9:00		PLENARY SESSION I Can the Doctor-Patient Relationship Survive the Cyberage? Dr. Antonio L. Dans Isla Ballroom	PLENARY SESSION III Stress Management for Physicians Ms. Cory R. Quirino Isla Ballroom	PLENARY SESSION V The Physician as a Patient Dr. Augusto D. Litonjua Isla Ballroom
9:45			A.G. SISON MEMORIAL LECTURE Dr. [illegible] Isla Ballroom	
10:00		Breakout Sessions I [illegible]		Breakout Sessions III [illegible]
10:30			PLENARY SESSION IV Legal Toolbox for the Internist Dr. [illegible] C. Castro Isla Ballroom	
11:15		Visit the Exhibits	Visit the Exhibits	Visit the Exhibits
11:30		Lunch Satellite Symposium 1 [illegible] 2 [illegible] 3 [illegible] 4 [illegible] 5 [illegible] 6 [illegible]	Lunch Satellite Symposium 7 [illegible] 8 [illegible] 9 [illegible] 10 [illegible] 11 [illegible] 12 [illegible] 13 [illegible]	Lunch Satellite Symposium 14 [illegible] 15 [illegible]
12:00				
1:30		Coffee Break		Coffee Break
2:00	Orientation of New Members Isla I	Breakout Sessions II [illegible]	ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING Isla Ballroom	Breakout Sessions IV [illegible]
3:00				
3:30		Visit the Exhibits		Visit the Exhibits
4:00	Opening of Exhibits	PLENARY SESSION II Internist as Public Health Advocate Dr. [illegible] C. Miguel Isla Ballroom	PCP MEDICAL QUIZ CONTEST Grand Finals Palawan	PLENARY SESSION VI Avian Flu: A Looming Threat to the World Dr. Jean-Marc J. Olive Isla Ballroom
4:30				
4:45				
5:00	OPENING CEREMONIES Induction of New Affiliate Members & Certification of New Diplomates Isla Ballroom	DINNER SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM Therapharma Isla Ballroom Roche Phils. Palawan Diethelm-Novartis Medical Nutrition [illegible] Schwarz Pharma [illegible]		
5:30			FELLOWSHIP NIGHT "A Grand Ball" Isla Ballroom	CLOSING CEREMONIES Induction of New Fellows Isla Ballroom
6:00				
7:00				

SPECIAL MEETINGS:
- Annual Meeting of Accredited Hospitals - May 3, 2006 Wednesday 12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m. Palawan
- Annual Meeting of PCP Chapters & Component & Affiliate Societies May 4, 2006 Thursday 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Summer Palace
- Alumni meetings May 4 2006 Thursday 5:00 p.m.

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Bishop vows to use pulpit to stop STL

ILAGAN, ISABELA—BISHOP SERGIO UTLEG HAS vowed to use the power of the pulpit to stop the proposed operation of the Small Town Lottery in Isabela.

Utleg said parish priests in the province's 35 towns and two cities have been very vocal in denouncing any form of gambling because this is "highly immoral to the flock."

He said "jueteng" operators and their protectors could also use the STL as a front for illegal gambling activities.

"These are the same people. STL will just be used as a cover for illegal gambling. I am sure that corrupt government and police officials would benefit from [STL's] operation," Utleg told the INQUIRER.

He said STL licenses are most likely go to the "same gambling operators who made jueteng thrive in the provinces."

"We will definitely use the pulpit to protect our flock. It is our duty," he said.

Utleg said he would meet the province's priests soon to draw up a manifesto against STL.

Isabela board members approved on March 28 the proposed operation of STL in the province, saying it could generate revenues for the province and deter illegal gambling.

They asked the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to include the province as one of the pilot areas where STL would run.

But Board Member Jesus Cruz Jr. cautioned the national government on implementing STL.

"The [national] government should watch out local government officials and policemen who might be tempted to protect illegal gambling activities in the guise of STL operations. So, the implementation here would depend on the system," Cruz said.

"Admittedly, though, [STL] is a better option than jueteng," Cruz added.

Board Member Kyrille Bello said STL would give jobs to displaced jueteng bet collectors.

"It has been more than a year since jueteng was stopped in the province. Many people are longing for a job and this is an answer to their pleas," Bello said.

Vice Gov. Ramon Reyes, in an earlier interview, said the STL's operation would not corrupt public officials because the proceeds of the game would directly go to the government's coffers.

He said the provincial board has yet to approve any STL franchise applicant in the province.

In Cagayan, Rep. Manuel Mamba, in several broadcasts in his weekly radio program, aired his opposition to a proposed STL operation in his district.

Jacinto Meman, Mamba's chief of staff, said the lawmaker would oppose any attempt to put up STL operations in the capital of Tuguegarao City and towns of Solana, Enrile, Peñablanca, Iguig, Amulung and Tuao, which compose the third district. *Villamor Visaya Jr. with a report from Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Dogs kill girl

CITY OF MALOLOS—A 5-year-old girl was killed after the family's pet dogs attacked and bit her in the neck in Calumpit, Bulacan, on Thursday. Reports said Channa Eraes died after undergoing surgery at the Bulacan Provincial Hospital at 1:30 p.m., more than five hours after she was attacked by the family's Pitbulls. Belen Eraes, the victim's grandmother, said she took the dogs out of their cages for their daily bath in the family compound in Barangay Longos. Belen said she thought Channa was inside the house and was surprised when she heard the girl shouting for help. Belen said she went to check her granddaughter and was shocked to see the dogs attacking the girl. The dogs were later killed and their heads submitted to the local Department of Agriculture office for rabies examination.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Whale found dead

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A more than 10-foot whale was found dead about 100 meters off the coast of the South China Sea in Sta. Cruz, Zambales, on Thursday. The stench from the decomposing whale led fishermen to the animal, according to Salvador Cortez, a resident of Barangay Malabago, in a phone interview on Friday. The stench was so strong that it caused some residents to vomit, he said. Malabago village chief Alejandre Fernandez said this was the first whale seen near his village. He said Department of Agriculture personnel who came to check the find could not yet tell the cause of the death and the species of the whale.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

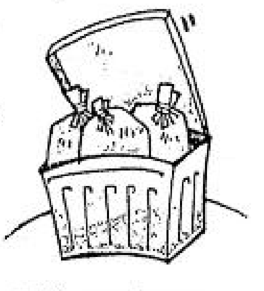
Illegal fishing in Sorsogon

ILLUSTRATIONS: ANTHONY MISTADES

LEGAZPI CITY—Two men were caught in the act of illegal fishing in the waters of Magallanes, Sorsogon at about 9 a.m., April 26. A police report said the suspects—Benjamin Laurora, 41, and Christopher Boter, 27—both residents of Barangay Rizal, Sorsogon City, were caught using a fine mesh net. Police confiscated their motorized boat, fishing tools and their catch.

Ephraim Aguilar, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Garbage-free city



LEGAZPI CITY—To make Legazpi garbage-free, the city government will purchase some 200 garbage bins through a P32-million loan from the Philippine National Bank. City solid waste management officer Menjo Ofracio said the garbage bins will be installed in conspicuous places in 70 barangays in the city where regular garbage collections are scheduled. Ofracio said that from the same budget, two more garbage compactor trucks will be purchased to help in the city's garbage collection.

Edgar Alejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Magayon Fest in Albay

LEGAZPI CITY—This year's Daragang Magayon Festival in Albay will be focused on agriculture. Gov. Fernando V. Gonzalez said on Wednesday that although the three-week festival on May 11-22 will feature fun-filled tourism activities for Albayanos and guests, agriculture will be given top priority to boost growing agribusiness industries such as cultivation of hybrid rice, corn, *pili* and other products. A mass induction and recognition of achievers will also be held while an Agri Fair Garden will run until May 22 at the Capitol grounds here.

Edgar Alejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Tamaraw counting

SAN JOSE, Occidental Mindoro—At least 45 participants, including a Japanese animal scientist, and 45 Mangyan porters, went up to Mt. Iglit in Calintaan town from April 20 to April 26 for the annual tamaraw counting. There were 269 tamaraws last year, according to a staff member of the Tamaraw Conservation Program. Results of this week's count will be consolidated for an update of the total tamaraw count in the province.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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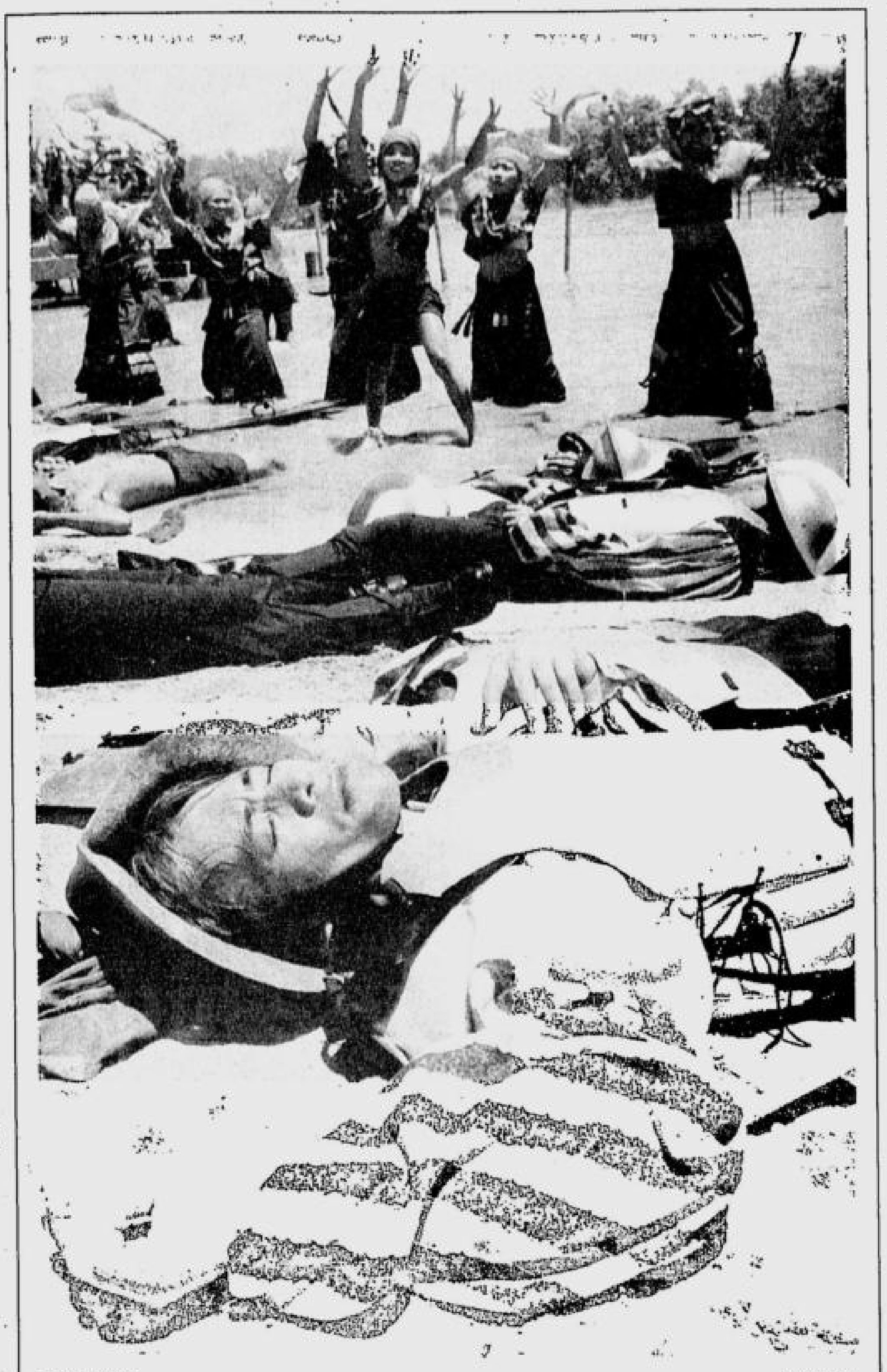
Lapid says GMA prodded him to challenge Binay



FALLEN

LYN RILLON

Actors performing roles as Spanish *conquistadores* lay on the beach near the Mactan Shrine in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu in a reenactment of the battle won by Lapu-Lapu against a contingent of Spanish colonizers led by Ferdinand Magellan.

By Jun Malig
PDI Central Luzon Desk

LAPID

BINAY

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo have convinced Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid to challenge Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay if the latter decides to run for a third and final term next year, the INQUIRER learned.

Reason for this "political courtship?" To finally stop the protest rallies being conducted by the opposition and anti-Arroyo groups in the country's premiere business district.

Binay, a member of the opposition who has openly criticized Ms Arroyo and who has joined calls for the President's resignation, has allowed anti-Arroyo forces to gather in Makati City to air their grievances.

A day before he flew to the United States on April 27, Lapid told reporters here that the Arroyo couple, during a round of golf in Baguio City on Holy Week, had asked him to challenge Binay.

"Makati is a center of business and protest rallies have no place in that city because these affect economic progress," Lapid said.

To prove his sincerity to run for mayor in Makati, Lapid said he bought a house in Magallanes district and applied for residency in the city on April 25.

"I'm sure to run for Makati mayor. The people of Makati are no strangers to Kapampangan leaders. The well-loved, longtime mayor, the late Nemesio Yabut, was from Macabebe town," said Lapid, who served as three-term governor of Pampanga from 1995 to 2004 before he became a senator in 2004.

Assurance

Lapid said he was assured by administration officials and several businessmen in Makati that they would support his mayoral campaign.

The senator said his son, Pampanga Gov. Mark Lapid, was with him when the Arroyo couple asked him to run for Makati mayor.

Minerva Arceo, public information officer of Governor Lapid, said the older Lapid had been considering the plan to challenge Binay since Holy Week.

Arceo said the senator wanted to help Ms Arroyo, his *kabalen* (province mate), in her political problems.

Lapid, who was elected to a six-year term in the Senate that would end in 2010, did not say if he would resign from his post to challenge Binay.

Section 67 of the Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines, however, states that any elective official seeking another office would be considered resigned from his office upon the filing of his certificate of candidacy.

This section states: "Any elective official, whether national or local, running for any office other than the one which he is holding in a permanent capacity, except for President and Vice President, shall be considered ipso facto resigned from his office upon the filing of his certificate of candidacy."

Veteran enemy

But Lapid, a movie star, would face a veteran of local politics who has led Makati City for nearly 20 years.

Binay was first appointed OIC (officer in charge) mayor after the Edsa Revolution in 1986. He ran and won his first term in 1988 and served for three terms that ended in 1998.

Binay asked his wife, Elenita, to run for mayor when he reached the three-term limit in 1998. Elenita defeated Arturo Yabut, son of the late Mayor Yabut.

Binay sat out his wife's term and accepted an appointment as chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

In 2001, he was eligible to run again and defeated actor Edu Manzano in the mayoral race.

UP prof denies statement on heavy metals

SORSOGON CITY—THE HEAD OF the University of the Philippines-Manila (UP-Manila) Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology denied telling the independent commission investigating the effects of mining operation at Rapu-Rapu, Albay that the results of the department's study were conclusive, especially on the question of heavy metals in the body of the respondents.

In a phone interview, Nelia Cortez-Maramba told the INQUIRER that what she told the commission was that they had to collect new blood and urine samples from the residents of the target areas so they could be sent to Minamata, Japan for a more thorough and accurate examination.

Maramba said the only reliable results they had were that of the fish samples but she did not reveal it before the commission but instead gave it to Sorsogon City Mayor Sally Lee for submission to Gov. Raul Lee.

The UP professor was criticized by Governor Lee after she was quoted in an INQUIRER article as telling the commission that residents in four towns in Sorsogon had heavy metals in their bodies.

Maramba said no media reporter talked to her personally about what she told the commission, adding that she was surprised when she read the report in the INQUIRER.

Her office was still awaiting the results of the water sample analysis from a laboratory in New Hampshire where it was sent, she said.

"I told the commission that further study has to be done to ascertain the result of urine and blood sample analysis since the laboratory apparatus that were used in the first analysis proved to be no longer effective, thus the results were not reliable and conclusive," Maramba added.

Meanwhile, commission vice chair Charles Avila said Maramba's testimony before the investigating body could always be checked since they were all electronically recorded.

Avila said the commission was already wrapping up its job and now preparing the final report for presentation to President Macapagal-Arroyo on May 5.

Avila assured the public that nothing would be hidden from anyone and that their report would reflect all the facts and information they gathered during the more than one month fact-finding mission. *Bobby Q. Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Pangasinan coastal towns start celebrating feast to honor sea

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

PARTICIPANTS join a contest of speed in deboning *bangus*, the main product of Dagupan City. The contest is part of Bangus Rodeo, one of the many activities lined up by Pangasinan to celebrate the Pista'y Dayat feast. RAY ZAMBRANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—The coastal towns of Pangasinan have launched various activities this week to celebrate the Pista'y Dayat (sea festival), probably the country's biggest and longest beach party.

Gov. Victor Agbayani opened the festivities on Thursday at the provincial capitol grounds with the awarding of Linis Dayat (sea cleanup) winners, a year-round contest for the cleanest coastlines in the province.

Agbayani said the Pista'y Dayat is not merely a fiesta celebration but a reminder to everyone to continue taking care of the coastal resources that are "basic to the survival and character of the province."

Pangasinan has 14 coastal towns and cities, facing the Lingayen Gulf and the South China Sea.

The town of Bani was cited for topping the Linis Dayat contest in the past seven years. The town, in 2005, received the Galing Pook Award for coastal resource management (CRM).

Bani Mayor Gabriel Navarro said the Linis Dayat award has resulted in greater awareness among coastal town residents on conservation of marine resources.

Vigor

"We have more marine sanctuaries and mangrove forests. There is renewed vigor in solid waste management and there is less illegal fishing," he said.

The other winners were Anda (CRM pioneering cluster), Burgos (CRM expansion cluster), Labrador (CRM developing cluster), Alaminos City (best coastal local government unit in mangrove development initiative), Infanta (best coastal town in upland reforestation management), Barangay Eguia in Dasol (model coastal barangay in solid waste management) and Samahan ng Maliliit and Mangingisda ng Balingasay (model barangay fisherfolk association in coastal habitat management).

Agbayani also opened the Panag-Artela, an exhibit of local artists, as part of the festival activities.

Other festival features are a parade of Pangasinan festivals on May 1 and various competitions in sports, painting, singing and sand sculpting. The Limgas na Dayat 2006 beauty pageant will be held today.

In Dagupan City, the Pista'y Dayat has evolved into the Bangus Festival, an almost month-long celebration which highlights the city's major product—the *bangus*.

Mayor Benjamin Lim said the city will hold the longest street barbecue party on April 30, where fresh *bangus* will be grilled along the major streets of the city.

Best products

The First Dagupan's Best competition, which featured the best products produced in the city, was held at the Malimgas market as part of the festival.

The winners were Marcela Barrozo for preparing the best tapa; Celia Guiao, best tocino; Lourdes Embornal, best longganisa; Belinda Natividad, best processed fish; Rowena Bancod, best sweets; and Soledad dela Cruz, best fruits.

Vice Mayor Alvin Fernandez, Dagupan's Best chair, said the result of the competition and the enthusiasm shown by participants were indications that the city should now start looking at these processed food products as additional sources of income.

He said the winning entries will be adopted as official recipes for the different Dagupan food products and will be produced by women's groups of the city as part of their livelihood projects.

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Outages in 4 cities traced to low water level

PAGADIAN CITY—FOR THE PAST five days now, the cities of Pagadian, Zamboanga, Ozamiz, and Dipolog have been suffering outages, which the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) blamed on low water level in hydroelectric plants.

Ruben Conti, Transco Northwestern Mindanao Area manager, said the problem was also aggravated by the absence of power generation plants in Iligan City and Bukidnon.

Transco Northwestern Mindanao services the entire Zamboanga Peninsula, Lanao del Norte, and Misamis Occidental.

He said on April 25, "forced outages" affected Unit 3 of Agus 4, Unit 3 of Agus 6 and power barge 117 in Iligan, while the decreasing level of water that enters the Pulangi 4 Hydroelectric power plant in Bukidnon also contributed to the power shortage.

Aside from the four cities, several Zamboanga del Sur towns also suffered outages when the Zamboanga del Sur Electric Cooperative (Zamsureco I) decided to reduce the supply of electricity from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Henry Gumapon, Zamsureco I technical chief, said the cooperative predicted losses when they decided to cut consumption by about two megawatt hours (mWh) based on a Transco advice.

But Conti defended the decision, saying the Iligan Diesel Power Plant had reduced its power generation capacity. He said two other power plants have been undergoing "preventive maintenance schedule."

Agapito Quirante, Transco District I area manager in Pagadian City, told the INQUIRER that as of Friday, the Pulangi plant remains not fully functional.

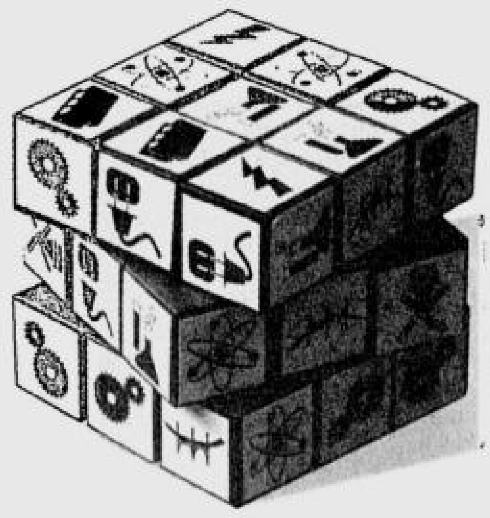
"We have received reports that power generation at Genco had resumed but we are still waiting if we could already lift the advisory and resume to normal power loading," he said.

Gumapon said the outages were compromising the finances of Zamsureco I.

This month, Zamsureco I entered into a contract to buy P11.3 million worth of power from the National Power Corp. (Napocor). He said if the cooperative cannot pay the contract amount, it would be penalized.

Gumapon expressed apprehension that Zamsureco I may not be able to pay the contract price because of the outages.

"If this happens, we will appeal to the Energy Regulatory Board for exemption since the losses are incurred not by the cooperative's failure to meet the amount but because of the reduction of power supply," Gumapon said. *Michael Sarcauga, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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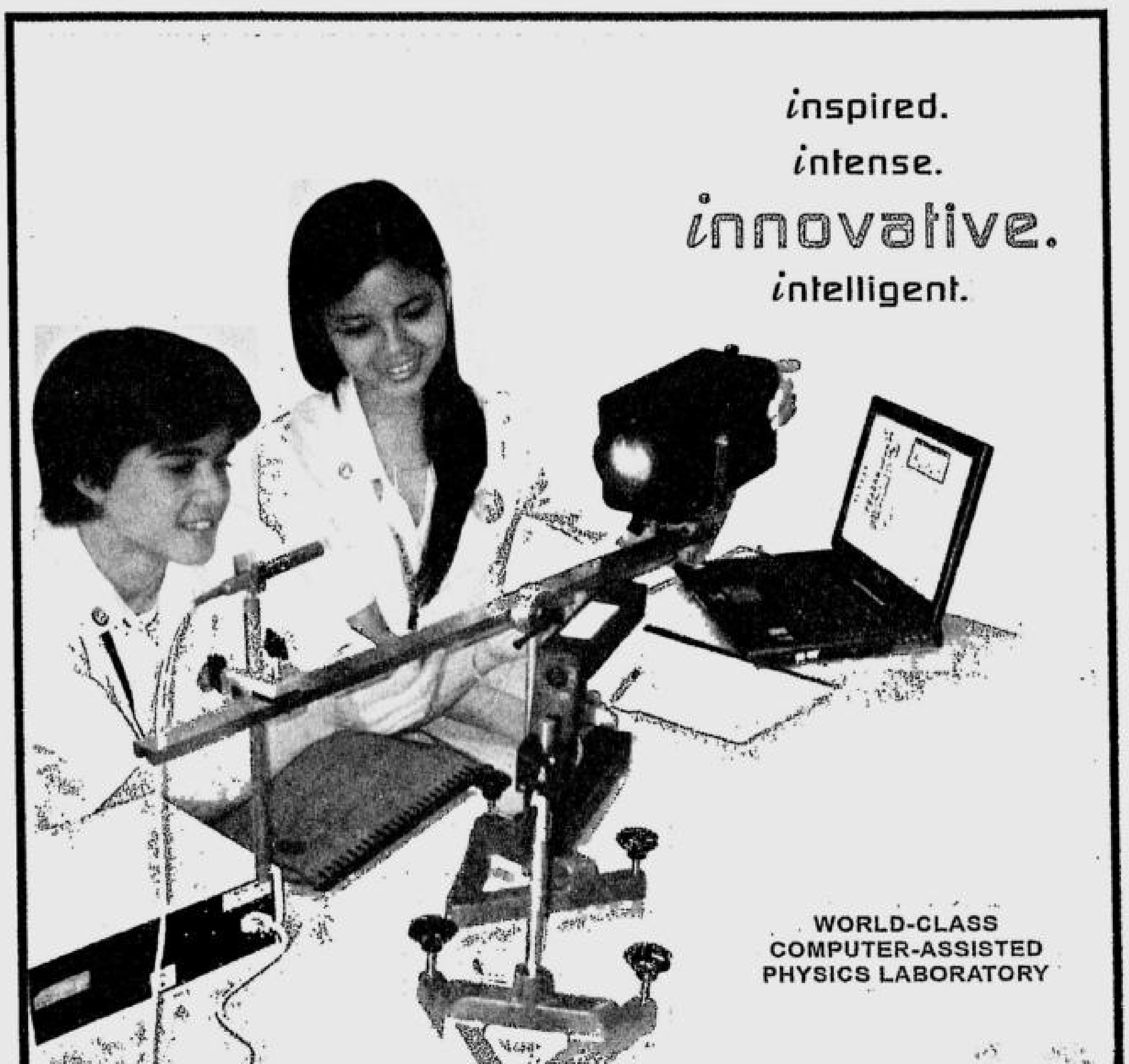

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Sunday, April 30, 2006

Sayaw.
Drama.
Iba.

Shall We Dance?
The Celebrity Dance Challenge
Sunday 9 PM
hosted by Lucy Torres Gomez
ABC
Iba Tayo!

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5		Ringside TV		PBA										Shall We Dance?		Dance Fever		Bura Funk Canned Heat	
ABS-CBN 2	Your Song	SCQ Kids Trapped			The Buzz	E Buzz	Samsung Sports World		Goin' Bulilit		Rated K		TV Patrol World	Sharon	Pinoy Big Brother	Trip Na Trip			
AXN								Worst Case Scenario		Gamemax (Season 1)	Mondo Magic Singapore	Worst Case Scenario		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 6)		CSI: NY (Season I)		CSI: Miami (Season II)	
Cartoon Network	Powerpuff Girls	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Pet Alien	Tom & Jerry Show	Coconut Fred's Fruit Salad Island	Camp Lazlo	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons		Megas XLR	Courage The Cowardly Dog		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons		Battle B-Daman	Power Rangers Dino Thunder	Justice League Unlimited	Aqua Teen Hunger Force/Sealab 2021
Cinema One				S2pid Luv				Mano Po 3: My Love				Uno				Wait A Minit Kapeng Mainit			
Cinemax		Wyatt Earp						The Boys & Girl From County Clare			The 51st State			The Rundown			Hudson Hawk (10:45PM)		
CNN		World News	Art Of Life	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	Global Challenges	World News	World Sport	Talk Asia	Art Of Life	World News	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Late Edition Live	
Crime/Suspense		Law & Order: Criminal Content		I, Detective	Takedown	Law & Order		What Should You Do?		The Closer		Law & Order: Criminal Content		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice	
Discovery Channel		Beyond Tomorrow		American Chopper		Mega Moves		Mythbusters		Hour Asia		Hour China		Mysterious Hanging Coffins Of China		Li Jiang: One City, Two Tales		Power Zone	
Disney Channel	Lizzie Mcguire	Totally Spies- Double Episodes		Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Buzz on Maggie	Mr. Bean	Phil Of The Future	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		2005 Kaohsiung World Pool C'ship				LPGa Golf Ginn Clubs & Resorts Open 3rd rd			Winter X Games Classix			Classic Boxing: All The Greatest		Major League Baseball: St. Dodgers @ Padres					
ETC		American Dreams 2		Rated Oh! 4	Insider Weekend	Saturday Night Live		One Tree Hill 3		America's Next Top Model 4		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Project Runway		Nip/ Tuck 3		Rated Oh!	Insider Weekend
ETC 2nd Avenue		Blowout 2		Today Show - 1 Hour- Version		Dateline		Cold Turkey		NBC Nightly News		The Biggest Loser		The Director		West Wing		NBC Nightly News	Hollywood One On One
EWTN	Defending Life	Angelus (3:15 PM)	The Donut Man	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Octavia Dica	Rome Reports	EWTN Global Showcase		Onward Pilgrims	Images of Mary	Sunday Mass Live			The World Over Encore		Life Is Worth Living	The Abundant Life	
Fox News		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Fox Report Saturday		Heartland With John Kasich		Big Story Weekend Edition		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Fox & Friends Sunday						Fox News Live	
GMA 7	Gigsters	Love To Love		S-Files				Mahiwagang Baul		Jologs		Mel & Joey		All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office	
Hallmark Channel			The Ransom Of Red Chief			Shadow Zone: My Teacher Ate My Homework				Just Cause		Child Of Our Time 2002		Sunday Premiere			Wedding Daze (10:35PM)		
HBO		Anchorman: The Legend Of Ron Burgundy			A Smile Like Yours (4:45 PM)				Sgt. Bilko			True Lies				Cellular (10:15PM)			
Hero TV	Machine Robo-Rescue	Dear Boys	GPX Cyber Formula	Baki The Grappler	Zenki	Super Yoyo	Ragnarok	Musumet	The Slayers	Barom One	Babel II	Mars The Terminator	Hero TV Theatrix	Dragons	Fire & Ice	Machine Robo-Rescue	Dear Boys	Zenki	Baki The Grappler
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		Legacy Of Hero		Pinoy Action Hits				Iyo Ang Katarungan	EL SHADDAI		
JackTV	Everybody Hate Chris	Arrested Development	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	Family Guy	Jack Yard	Afterburn		Smackdown				Jack In The Box				Trigger Happy TV	Dr. Katz	Comedy Central Presents	Premium Blend
Lifestyle Network		Smart Solutions	Country Style	Your Private Island	Fine Living Special		Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Wolfgang Puck	Food Network Special			E! Entertainment Special		French Lieutenant's Woman				Fashion Trends
MTV Philippines	Handpicked	Massive	MTV News	Got Hitch'd	Homecoming	Laguna Beach	MTV Hits	Pimp My Ride		Punk'D		From Wack to Mack	VH1 All Access: Hot Sexy Now	MTV Hits		MTV Hits	Rex in the City	MTV Screen	Sessions Sandwich
MYX	Top Picks	Pinoy MYX Countdown				Take 5	MYX Bandarito	MYX News		OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Presents			MYX Hit Chart			MYX Backtrax	MYXILOG
National Geographic												MegaStructures: Dubai's Palm Island		Gospel of Judas				Nat Geo Investigates: [illegible]	
NBN		Tinig ng Bayan ([illegible])						Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Congress In Action		The Working President	Sabaytan Sa Kalusugan	The Sports List		Pilipinas Ngayon Na!		Tinig ng Bayan (Replay)	
Nickelodeon	Drake & Josh	SpongeBob SquarePants	Trollz	The Fairly Odd Parents	Catscratch	Avatar: The Last Airbender	Danny Phantom	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	As Told By Ginger	Girls In Love	The Brothers Garcia	The Amanda Show	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Lastikman: Unang Banat				Pablik Enemi 1N2				Mumbaki				Viva's & I				Gloria Labandera
Qtv		Lois And Clark		Kaleido Star		Bongga Ka Star		Ang Pinaka...		Pop Star Kids		May Trabaho Ka		Sunday Super Sine				Groupee TV	
RPN 9		Golf Power	Fistorama		Global Window	WWE Smackdown		JAG		Navy NCIS		Without A Trace		NBA On RPN					The Working President
SBN 21				Buhay Pinoy		Shepherd's Voice		New Life				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan	[illegible]	Gabay At Aksyon			
Solar Sports				WTA Indian Wells '06 Finals				GWS 17-2006	NBA Jam	2006 NBA Playoffs		World Game						Zurich Classic of New Orleans	
Sports Plus			Shell Houston Open Highlights		Inside the PGA														
Star Movies			Hidalgo				Hunt For Justice (5:45 PM)				Solo (7:25 PM)			Johnson Family Vacation			Mortal Thoughts		
Star World		Scrubs	8 Simple Rules/ Arrested Development	North Shore		Business Week Asia	Travel Asia	Smallville		Malcolm In The Middle	The Simpsons	Oprah Winfrey Show		Kaffee With Karan		Coupling		Malcolm In The Middle	Oprah Prime Time
Studio 23						Exposed				Y Speak		Joey	Living With Fran	Will & Grace	US Girls	[illegible] (10:15PM)	Badminton Extreme		Angel

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Family legacy of education continues

By Nash B. Maulana
Datu Piang, Maguindanao

THE ABPI children have all chosen to practice their profession mostly in Maguindanao. They are (from left) Myra Abpi Pendatun, an accountant; Meriam Abpi Ali, a dentist; Jane Abpi Tuan, an economist, educator; Ysmael Nasser Sanchez Abpi, an engineer; Jocelyn Abpi Ismael, a dietician-nutritionist; Hyasmin Abpi Guinomla, a nurse; Elizabeth Abpi Samama, a physician. (Second row, fourth from left): Serenidad Sanchez Abpi Al-hajj and Gani Limbo Abpi Al-hajj.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THE ABPI FAMILY has become an institution in Datu Piang town in Maguindanao with their forebears' legacy of education.

In fact, the Muslim family received the Presidential Merit Award for Model Family during the celebration of the 1995 International Year of the Family.

Its triumphs started with the humble patriarch, Gani L. Abpi, who sowed the seeds of rural education in this part of the country, when he founded the Central Maguindanao Institute (CMI) in 1958.

Mister Abpi (as he was fondly called by the community in sheer reverence) acted as school principal, security guard and janitor. His wife, Serenidad Bautista Sanchez, of Pampanga and Bulacan, was teacher and librarian.

Koran verse

The couple had taken inspiration from the following verse of the Koran when they decided to put up the school. They both envisioned it as a structure to help transform the community of Christians and Muslims in Dulawan, Cotabato (now Datu Piang):

"Read! In The Name of thy Lord Who Createth/ Createth human by the clot (of congenital blood; /Read! And thy Lord is Most Bounteous/ Who Taught by the Pen; /Taught human what he knew not ..."

With only five teachers for all 174 students, Abpi succeeded in nursing the fledgling school with the help of a small fund put up by its first all-Muslim board of directors—Bakalat Piang-Nul, Muhamad Shuaib, Datukan Malangkay, Muhammad Abpi and Abpi himself.

Christian friends, who comprised the CMI's first set of faculty members—their first names apparently escaped the school's surviving records from the wars of the '70s—were Miss Jacuting, Miss Sepnio and Engineer Guteza.

As of its 2005-06 commencement exercises, the rural school, now known as the Gani L. Abpi Colleges Inc., has produced about 25,000 graduates of high school and recipients of college degrees and associate degrees.

Many, of the alumni have joined pools of professionals in offices in Datu Piang and abroad, including an illustrious career ambassador.

Fresh family branches

Deep into their professional fields, Dr. Elizabeth Abpi-Samama, the couple's eldest child, said she and her six siblings have raised their own children, too, literally adding up fresh branches into a family tree of an institution that their parents planted and reared.

And in this season of commencement exercises, two from among the third generation of 22 grandchildren will finish medicine.

Samama narrated that their father started it all.

While their father was taking up education at the University of the East in Manila, he met their mother at a boarding house her parents owned in Sampaloc, Manila.

Two years into their marriage, the Abpis founded the school.

It pained them that the wars in the '70s curtailed the school's operations, but this did not douse their dedication and zeal.

Resettling in Manila, Abpi taught at the Lakandula High School while finishing a master's degree in education at the Manuel L. Quezon University in 1974.

Serenidad was employed with the then Presidential Task Force (PTF) along España Avenue. The PTF, commissioned by then President Ferdinand Marcos to formulate peace programs for his administration, had revived Maguindanao as a province in its recommendation on the division of the Empire Cotabato into Maguindanao, North Cotabato, South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat.

Housework, too

Abpi's wife used to say that with all the official functions that her husband had to attend to, he still found time doing household chores, including laundry work, whenever she gave birth or was cooking and serving her food while recuperating from delivery, according to their children.

The couple had seven children—Elizabeth, who later married businessman Victor Samama; Hyasmin, wife of Muhammad Taha Guinomla, an executive of the Department of Foreign Affairs; Jocelyn, the wife of Najir Ismael, also a scion of an educated clan in Sulu and a computer guru; Ysmael Nasser, who married Suraini Dumama, a pharmacist; Jane, who is married to Macmod Tuan, an educator; Meriam, wife of Chief Insp. Esmael Ali; and Myra, whose husband is Chief Insp. Nasser Pendatun.

Foundation

The children would later establish the foundation that worked for the reopening of the school, eventually renaming it the Gani L. Abpi Colleges Inc., in honor of their late father.

Ysmael, a civil engineer, succeeded his father as administrator of the school when it reopened in 1981 with the help of its more prominent alumni, including Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Bahnarin K. Guinomla; Muslimin Ampatuan, former vice governor of Maguindanao; the late engineer Makmod Mending, then senior executive of the National Irrigation Administration; and Mustapha Sambolawan, Cabinet secretary in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

With sheer dedication to rural services, the Abpi children have all chosen to practice their profession locally and mostly in Maguindanao, although they could have been more financially rewarded elsewhere.

Samama is a physician; Hyasmin, a nurse; Jocelyn, a dietician-nutritionist; Jane, an economist-educator; Meriam, a dentist; and Myra, an accountant. They have been helping run the school as board directors.

Serving locally is more satisfying than the rewards of working overseas, they agreed.

Adventure in Maitum, Sarangani: Whitewater tubing

By Aquiles Zonio
Maitum, Sarangani

I WAS HESITANT TO PUT ON THE SAFETY gear—head protector and life jacket. I was too confident.

It would just be another ordinary experience, I thought. How wrong I was!

The rules, written in bold letters on a signboard displayed right at the center of the village, were very clear: "Whitewater tubing is off limits to those who do not know how to swim."

I cringed, but never mind! Nobody knows I don't know how to swim.

Digs Movilla, a council member of New La Union in Maitum town in Sarangani, said it was the busiest day ever since whitewater tubing started in the village three years ago.

Vincent Yabes, son of Maitum Mayor George Yabes, was the first to discover the Pangi River as perfect for this kind of outdoor activity.

It was a Black Saturday. I was with six other batchmates from high school at the Mindanao State University.

The adventure pushed through after an exchange of e-mail among members of Class 1984. The group learned about the whitewater tubing through an e-mail I sent to the e-group designed by Ariel Marco R. Oclarit, the salutatorian.

Oclarit, a graduate of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, took time off a busy work schedule to join the adventure.

Warm reception

After brief pleasantries, Movilla and two other barangay officials prepared a long food table for us. All the cottages were occupied.

The hospitality was touching and exhilarating. Since we didn't bring any kitchen utensils, except for a three-kilo deer meat and bottled water, it was Movilla's wife Eunice who cooked the lunch of grilled milkfish, *tinolang* native chicken and *adobong usa*.

Although I was still suffering from a lower back injury during one of my workout sessions at the fitness gym, I had to accompany my batchmates who were very eager to experience whitewater tubing.

Only six of the 10 members decided to join. The rest, most of them mothers in their late 30s, were mere spectators.

Marianne Agcambert, who has four children, said: *"Di ako marunong lumangoy. Takot akong malunod."* (I don't know how to swim. I fear drowning.)

Niña Cornejo begged off: *"Itong dalawang dalaga ko na lang. Gustong-gusto nila eh."* (My two eager daughters will join.)

Oclarit, known to the group as Aying, volunteered to take photographs.

From the village center, a jeep brought us farther upriver along with other thrill seekers.

The river's pristine waters against the dazzling backdrop of lush vegetation make whitewater tubing adventure one of Maitum's best.

The 1.6-km run snakes through huge boulders, six drop points or rapids, and roots of trees before winding up in a dam site.

Before finally setting us out, our river guides provided final safety instructions. Each of us had an individual guide.

Then the breath-taking fun began.

Defying the rapids

Years back during summertime, we used to cross much bigger and powerful rivers on our way to the farm. But during those times, forging rivers brought nothing but fatigue and boredom.

Along with friends, we frolicked and chased one another in a deep and calm portion of the river. We avoided and dreaded the rapids.

Now, there's no turning back. We have to overcome fear and try to defy the rapids.

As we traveled back down the river, once adjudged the cleanest in the country, all of us were overwhelmed by mixed emotions. It was our first river tubing experience and we could feel the adrenalin rush.

We held our breath every time the rubber tube carrying us slid along and splashed on the rapids.

I could hear the Cornejo sisters—Precious, 19, and Kaye, 17—shrieking in excitement whenever the tubes dropped.

I've seen several tubers ahead of us fall into the waters, but the guides were quick. Within minutes, they were back on board.

This time, I could see them holding on tightly to the tubes.

The ordeal went on for 35 minutes. I realized, this kind of daring downstream run is not for children and the lily-livered.

More than recreation

There's more to whitewater tubing than mere recreation. Movilla said it provided jobs for the locals and revenues for New La Union.

Each tuber pays P80 for the experience, of which 60 percent go to the river guides, 20 percent to the management, 15 percent to the barangay and the remaining five percent to medical care.

According to the village officials, 20 to 30 visitors visit New La Union to try river tubing during ordinary days.

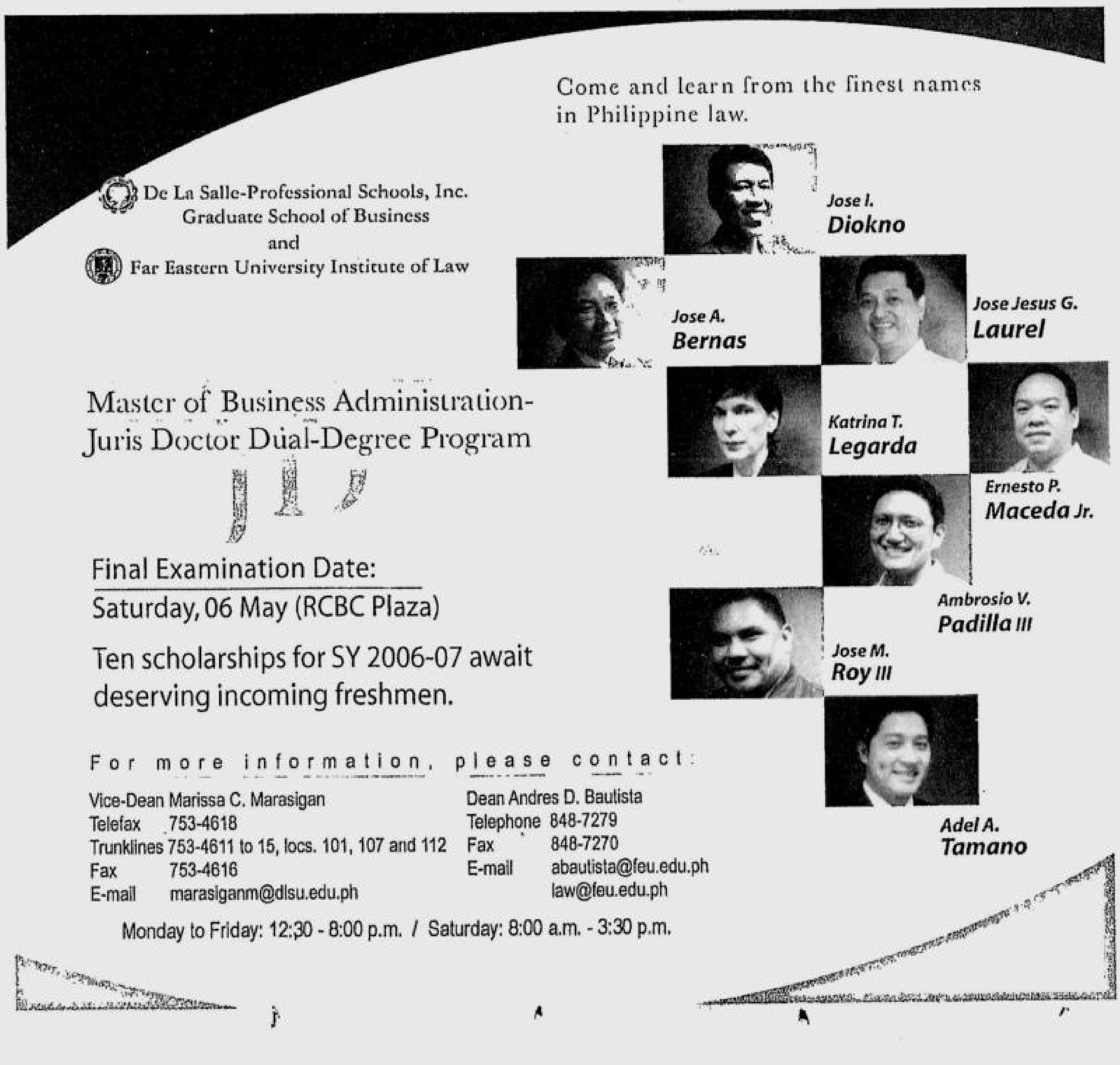
At present, there are more than 18 river guides in New La Union who depend on river tubing for livelihood.

They derive fun no longer from the chirping of birds hopping from one tree to another along the riverbank but on the murmur of the rushing water, the screams, and the oohhs and aahhs of jittery of delighted tubers.

Indeed, whitewater tubing has turned this rustic yet idyllic mountain-side village from sleepy to a vibrant one.

After the river tubing, I climbed up the concrete stairway of the dam leading to the village center.

On my way to the top, Oclarit met me and said "I just missed the thrill of my life."



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Gonzalez: I didn't induce downgrade of Subic rape raps

By Armand N. Nocum

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ yesterday reacted strongly to the decision of a Makati judge rejecting his motion to downgrade the charges against three US Marines accused of raping a Filipino woman in Subic last year.

"I disagree vehemently with that decision of the judge ... that my decision infringes on the independence of the court," Gonzalez said, adding that the decision of Makati Judge Benjamin Pozon was "based on a mere technicality" and not on the merits of the case.

Gonzalez said he would file on Tuesday a manifestation before the Makati court stating that he did not try to "induce" the court to downgrade the charges against three of the Marines and that there had been no "due process" in the DOJ's review of the petition for review filed by the accused.

No proof of conspiracy

Earlier this month, the justice secretary moved to downgrade the charges against Keith Silkwood, Dominic Duplantis and Chad Carpentier from principals to accessories, saying he had found no evidence of a conspiracy. Gonzalez's action prompted the lead prosecutor to withdraw from the case and drew strong protests from the victim's relatives and women's groups.

"I am issuing an ex-parte manifestation not in favor of the Americans, but to rectify what has been said by the court. If you leave that court ruling unanswered, it might be seen as the correct action," he told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Pozon, in deciding to uphold the charge of rape against Lance Cpl Daniel Smith and the three others as principal accused, said that the court had viewed the DOJ's motion as an attempt to induce the court to decide on the case of the three accused "on the basis of evidence not yet presented" and that it tended not only to disregard "requirements of due process but also tends to erode the court's independence."

Urgent manifestation

In a three page-draft of Gonzalez's Urgent Ex-Parte Manifestation obtained by the INQUIRER, Gonzalez said he came out with his "motion to admit amended information" in view of a petition for review filed by the respondents.

Citing the Supreme Court decision in the Crespo vs Mogul case, he said the DOJ was authorized to act on a petition for review in view of an "unfavorable ruling of the investigating prosecutor."

Gonzalez said his motion did not tend to influence the court because he was only exercising his power to review the case.

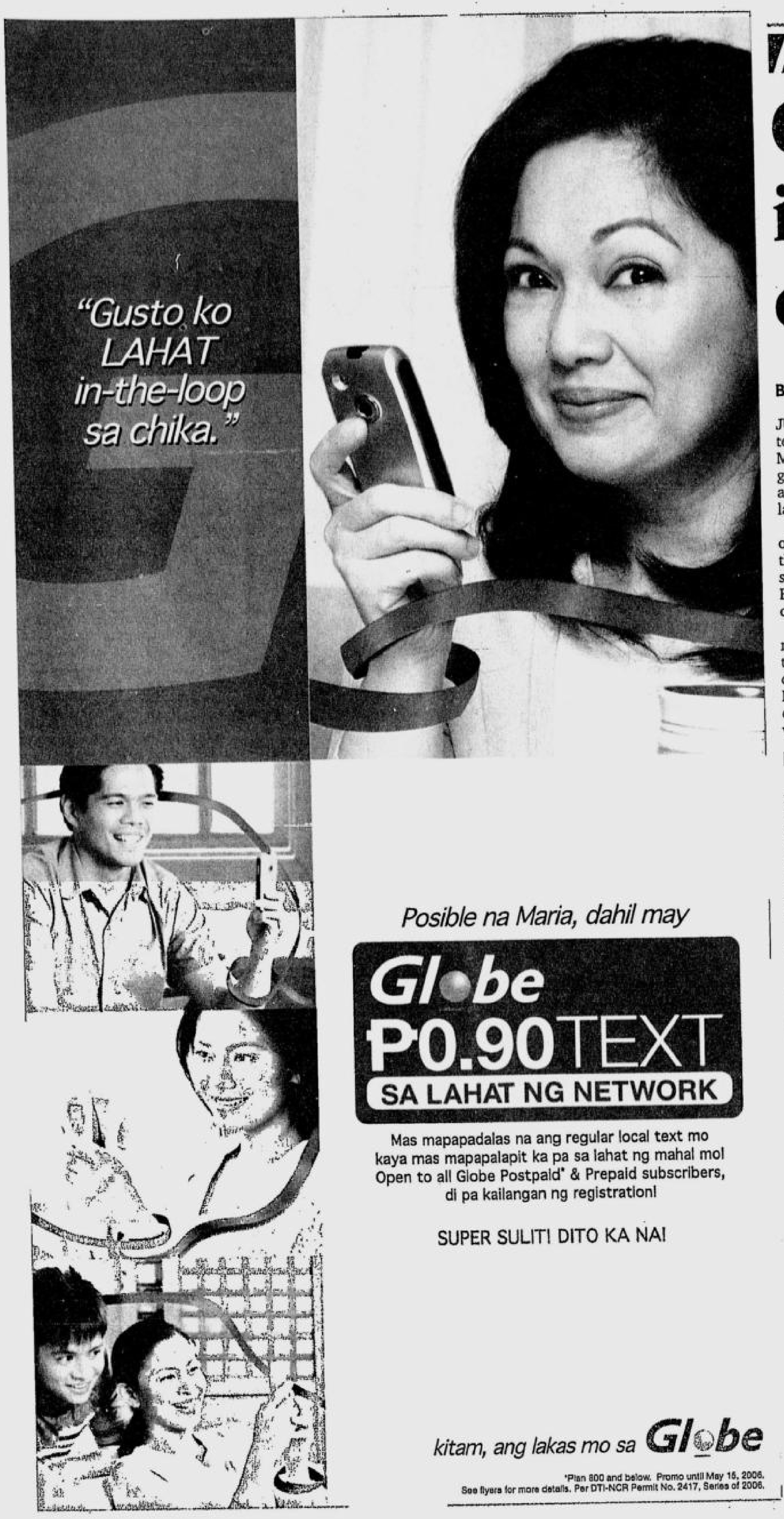
The DOJ chief had warned that the Makati court ruling junking a resolution downgrading the charges against the three US Marines could weaken the case.

But for Akbayan party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, Gonzalez sounded "pathetic."

"It is almost pathetic to see that Raul Gonzalez appears to be begging to be the lawyer of the soldiers. It's a very embarrassing position for the secretary of justice," Rosales said.

Rosales urged Gonzalez to stop issuing controversial comments on the Subic rape case now that the case has been filed in court.

"He should shut up. He has already been enough of an embarrassment to the President and the Filipino people," she added. *With a report from Philip C. Tubeza*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Teacher finds home in unexpected place

'Outsider' overcomes suspicion, prejudice by 'doing right thing'

EDWIN BACASMAS

DR. MONTE: "Although I am a Catholic, my heart is set on helping our Muslim brothers and sisters."

By Jocelyn R. Uy

TALES OF THE CITY

IN A REMOTE VILLAGE which many people perceive as one of the most dangerous places in Metro Manila, a graying educator has found her "home."

Dr. Nena Monte, 59, is the principal of the Maharlika Elementary School which is situated in the heart of Taguig City's Maharlika Village, the largest Muslim community in the metropolis.

Most of the school's students are Muslim children who, at an early age, had been exposed to poverty, the war in Mindanao and discrimination.

Prior to her appointment at Maharlika, Monte taught for 23 years at the Silangan Elementary School, also in Taguig, where 80 percent of students were Christians and the rest Muslims.

As Silangan's student population grew, the local government decided to build a school close to the homes of Muslim children that would focus on their needs.

In 2000, Monte was appointed officer in charge of the school which then consisted of an unfinished two-story building with unpainted walls and a roof badly in need of repair.

Unfriendly atmosphere

But the school's renovation was the least of the challenges in store for her. Apart from the shoestring budget which she often had to augment with money from her own pocket, she also had to put up with the taunts of her colleagues and the unfriendly attitude of some Muslim parents.

"My colleagues thought I was too ambitious. They said I was putting my life at risk working in a dangerous place like Maharlika Village just to become a principal," Monte told the INQUIRER.

But she remained focused on her mission: Develop the school to help Muslim children, most of whom had fled war-torn Mindanao.

In its first year of operation, the school had 800 enrollees, who had to be squeezed into the building's seven classrooms. Some teachers had to hold classes under the trees. There were only 24 teachers at that time, Monte said.

With the help of local and national government officials, Monte was able to persuade the National Housing Authority to donate a 3,936-sq m lot for a new school building.

Two years later, a three-story building with nine classrooms was built with the help of former Congressman Dante Tinga, father of incumbent Taguig City Mayor Freddie Tinga.

At present, the school has about 1,800 elementary students and 100 preschoolers, 90 percent of whom are Muslims. The school has 35 academic teachers and nine Madrasah instructors.

Death threats

Despite her efforts, Monte said she received death threats until 2003, allegedly from members of the community who were unhappy over the fact that she, a Catholic, was managing a Muslim school.

"I would receive phone calls telling me to say my final prayers because I was going to die. Somebody would also throw firecrackers near my office window to scare me," she said.

Monte added that her strict implementation of rules on cleanliness and punctuality among the students did not sit well with some Muslim parents. Others even threatened to go to the local government to ask for her dismissal.

"They confronted me for making their children pick up trash in the school and for directing the security guards to close the gates at 8 a.m., an hour after the start of classes," she recalled.

No surrender

But Monte said she refused to relax her rules, though she was careful not to offend Muslim beliefs and traditions, because she believed she was doing the right thing.

"Many have advised me to convert to Islam so I would be safe and respected. I told them that although I am a Catholic, my heart is set on helping our Muslim brothers and sisters," she said.

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Marian shrines: New landmarks on Antipolo route

Four latest 'reflection spots' for Way of Mary pilgrims to be blessed today

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

WITH HIS MEMORIES STILL ALIVE in the hearts of his followers and friends, not even death can stop the late Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin's dream from becoming a reality.

Today, four newly built shrines in Mandaluyong and Pasig cities will be blessed. Two shrines had been blessed earlier. They are part of the cardinal's vision of building 20 shrines representing the 20 mysteries of the Holy Rosary (including the Luminous Mystery), on a 14-kilometer traffic-prone stretch from the Our Lady Queen of Peace (Edsa Shrine) in Ortigas Avenue to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage (Antipolo Cathedral) on Sumulong Highway.

Drawing inspiration from a group of pilgrims walking from Mandaluyong City to Antipolo City twice a year—Maundy Thursday and April 30, the eve of the Antipolo May Festival—Sin had thought of building the shrines, hoping to bring the Blessed Virgin Mary closer to the people, three years ago.

The annual tradition began when the centuries-old statue of the Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage had to be transferred to the Quiapo Church during the Japanese Occupation.

Brought to Antipolo City by Spanish galleon trader Don Juan Niño de Tabora in 1626, the image was returned to the Antipolo Cathedral after the war ended in 1945.

Retracing the route

Her return to a permanent home inspired devotees to start pilgrimages in 1978 to retrace the route taken by the image, Antipolo Cathedral rector Fr. Rigoberto de Guzman said.

Soon, more devotees were joining the pilgrimage, which they later called "Ang Banal na Paglalakbay."

Pilgrims would bring the image on foot to the Quiapo Church in a motorcade and return it to Antipolo in the evening.

The pilgrimage was a touching testament of faith. But Sin had observed most of the participants were just walking and were not praying, project proponent Louie Reyes recalled.

"He initially thought of the idea to make the pilgrims pray the Rosary," Reyes said. "But after two to three days, the Cardinal came out with another concept," Reyes added.

Way of Mary

The shrines called the "Way of Mary," once completed, could become "reflection stops" for devotees and pilgrims praying the Rosary.

The route is one of the busiest in the metropolis but according to Sin, "that is exactly where Mother Mary should be. She should be with the people."

Reyes and a group of businessmen, all devotees of the Blessed Virgin, decided to push through with the idea. The first shrine, located at the Ortigas Building on corner Ortigas and Meralco Avenues, was built last year.

Cardinal Sin himself had blessed the first shrine (The Shrine of the Anunciation), erected at the Edsa Shrine, last year. Three weeks before Sin passed on, Antipolo Bishop Gabriel Reyes also blessed the last shrine (The Shrine of the Coronation) at the Antipolo Cathedral.

In a span of one year, the group of devotees managed to erect four more shrines to complete the Joyful Mystery, getting funds from private donors like businessman Ricardo Pascua and the Ortigas family. The other shrines are located at the Frontera Verde on Ortigas Avenue, the corner of Ortigas Avenue and Pasig Boulevard, and at the corner of De Castro Avenue on Ortigas Avenue extension.

The shrines, in bas-relief, were sculpted and painted on concrete and steel by artist Nemi Miranda, who also did murals and paintings for the two churches connecting the shrines, the Edsa Shrine and Antipolo Cathedral.

Each shrine is six feet tall, four feet wide, six feet thick and mounted on six-foot high lighted pedestals designed by architect Joey Amistoso.

There are 14 more shrines to be completed, with each structure costing about P400,000, Reyes said. His goal is to complete the project by Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Fund-raising through text

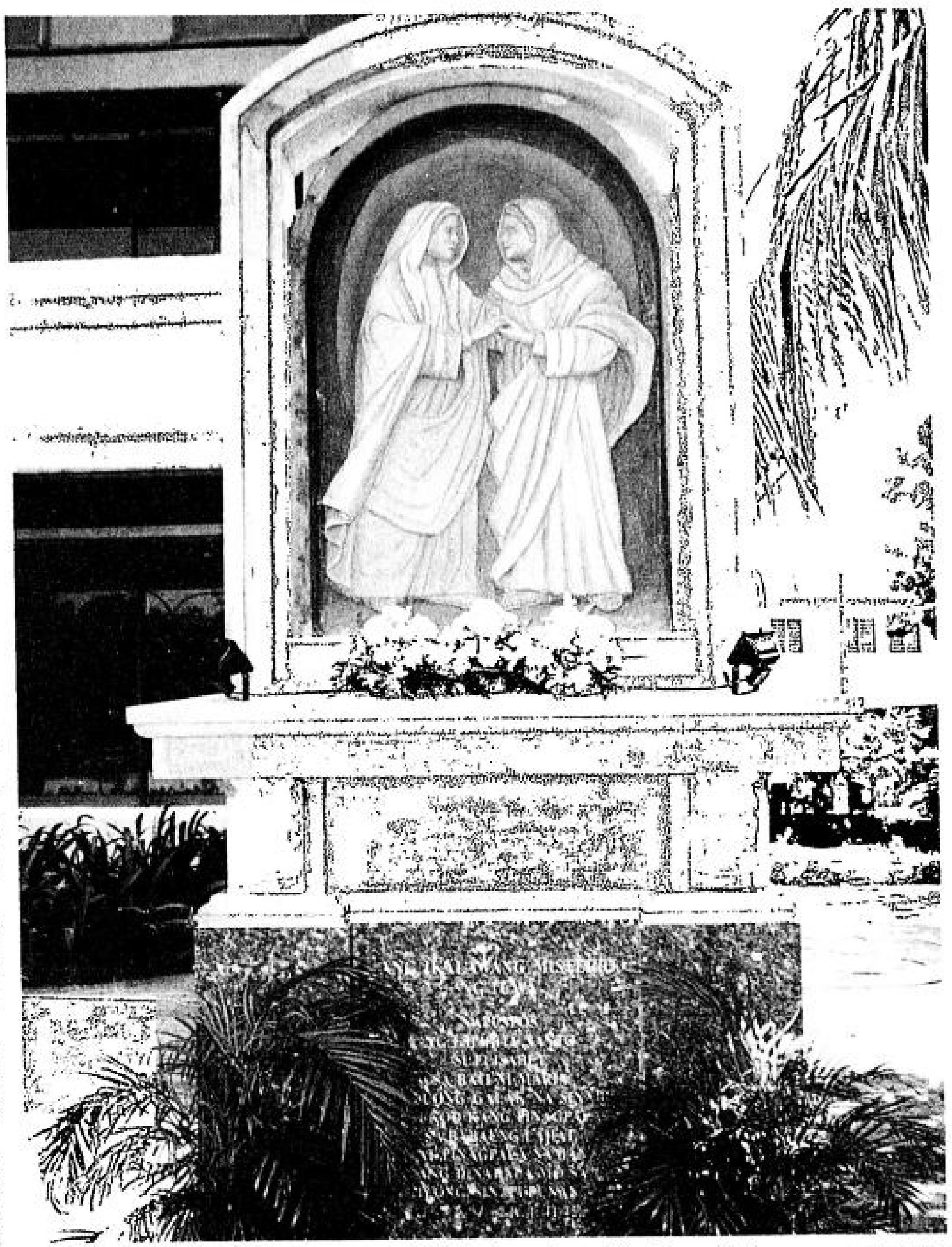
He is not only counting on the help of wealthy businessmen, but also on the love many Filipinos have for the Blessed Virgin Mary, and yes, even on their habit of text messaging.

Those who want to help can send a text message to 2600, the Text Mama Mary Community, established by the group to encourage devotees to send petitions and prayers through text.

The revenues coming from the text messages, which cost P2.50 each, would be used to complete the remaining shrines which are not just works of art.

More than a realization of a great man's vision to strengthen the faith of the faithful, they are also a constant reminder of and a prayer for peace.

"We really need peace, especially in these times. We hope that through our prayers, we will be enlightened on the path to peace," De Guzman said.



ONE of the four Way of Mary shrines—the Visitation—that will be blessed today. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Inmates blame Reyes

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE MORO CHRISTIAN PEOPLE'S Alliance (MCPA) yesterday blamed former Interior and Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes for the "slow death" of suspected Abu Sayyaf members detained in Camp Bagong Diwa.

The group said the roughly 120 Muslims detainees are suffering from poor conditions in the Bicutan jail despite their pleas to the interior department for humane treatment.

May Vargas, MCPA information officer, told the INQUIRER in an interview that their group has recorded five deaths inside the jail since 2003.

Anak Mindanao Rep. Mujiv Hataman earlier identified the suspected Abu Sayyaf members who died inside the jail as Heldy Andolong, Mark Teodoro, Jairol Ambot, Benhar Ismi and Muktar Ahalul.

"The families of these inmates, as well as relatives of those killed during the Bicutan siege in March 2005, will write a complaint to the DILG and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology underscoring Reyes' culpability," Vargas said.

The BJMP is under the supervision of the interior department. Reyes was the department secretary during last year's siege on the Bicutan jail.

Teacher finds home ...

From page A23

Monte, who is turning 60 next week, said she didn't take it against the parents that they did not like her. She just resolved to help and understand them, she added, as she could see the difficulties they were facing adjusting to their new home after being displaced from their houses in Mindanao.

Most of the parents of her students live in shanties at the Maharlika Village, where water is scarce. They had to pay P5 to use the communal bathing center built for them, Monte said.

She added that she realized that some of her students were late for school because they had to wait for their other siblings to come home and take off the school uniform—which they, in turn, would wear.

Help from agencies

Bothered by their plight, the principal approached several foundations for some of the children's basic needs, like food and school uniforms. Two of those that responded were the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United States Agency for International Development.

Monte said she had often wondered why the national government was giving too much attention to fighting the Abu Sayyaf in Mindanao instead of looking after the children affected by the war.

"The government should give their attention to the kids who are already here, those who left their homes so they would not end up being an Abu Sayyaf member," she added.

Monte said that some children would get into fights in school especially with a rival tribe. A few would even sneak in deadly weapons, she told the INQUIRER.

"I mustered the courage to meet and talk with the parents concerned, to show them that Muslims and Christians could live harmoniously in this school," the principal said.

Acceptance, finally

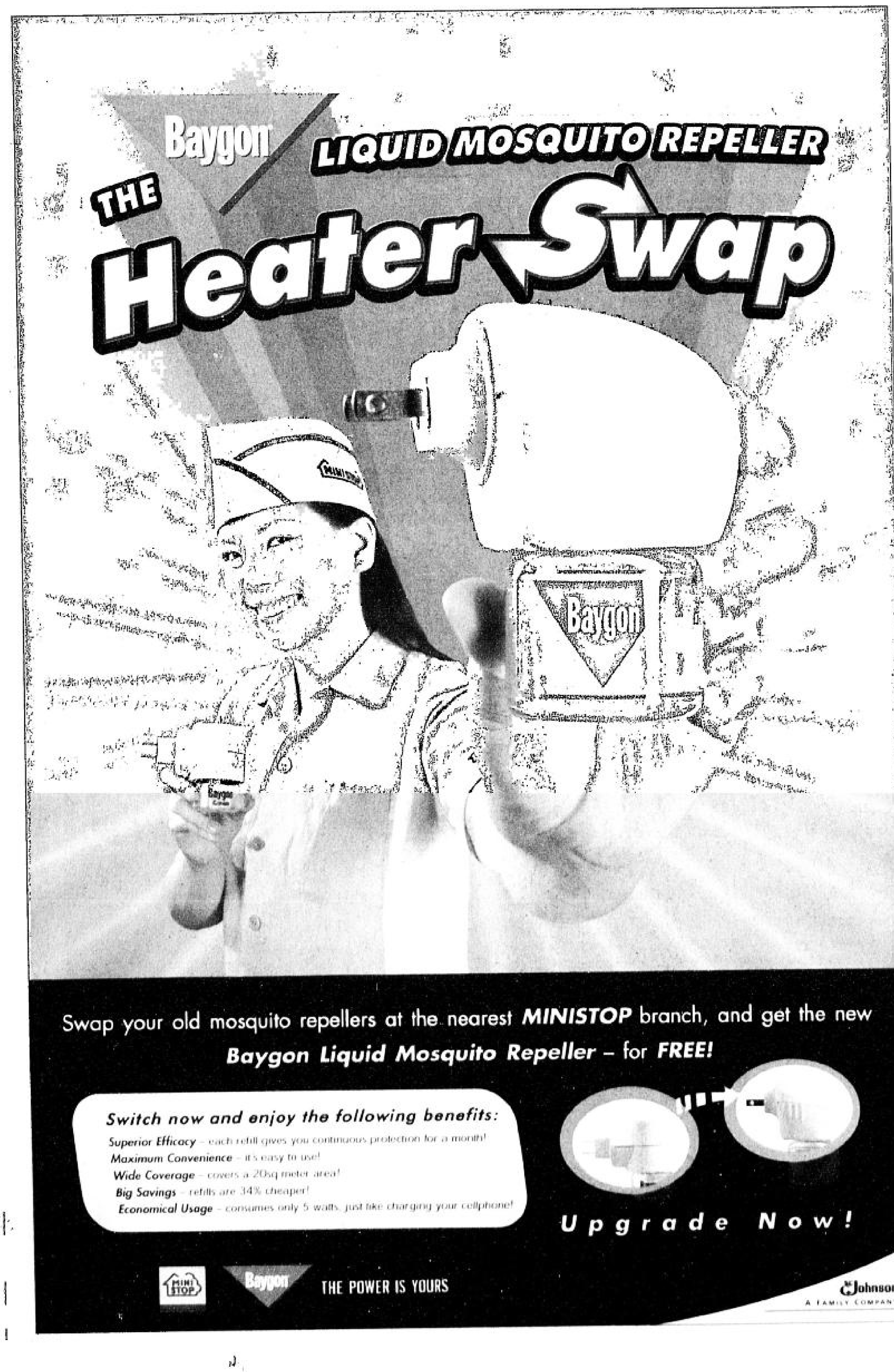
Eventually, the parents warmed up to her and the death threats stopped. Now, Monte said she can freely walk at night or jog in the morning in the village without fear of getting mugged or killed.

The school has also started earning accolades from across the nation. It was named the most innovative school in the country last year during the Department of Education's National Schools Maintenance Week in Davao City.

The Taguig City government also gave the school the Best Reading Nook award last year. Two months ago, the school garnered three prizes at the National Young Writers' Conference in Kalibo, Aklan: First place in Radio Broadcasting and Info Commercial and second place in Technical Application.

"These awards are worth more than money and promotion. I sacrificed my promotion to another school because this is where I am happy," said the teary-eyed Monte.

Now that the school is doing well, she is ready to turn over her responsibilities to someone the community trusts, she added. "But now, they won't let me leave. It tugs at the heartstrings when they tell me they still need me here," Monte said.



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An OFW was there

He's the first Pinoy to climb 6,161 meters of Everest Peak

By Arlyn dela Cruz

HE DIDN'T GET TO THE TOP OF THE WORLD BUT OVERSEAS worker Arniel Aquino climbed far enough to feel proud at being able to wave the Philippine flag atop a 6,161-meter (about 19,900 feet) ridge in the shadow of Mount Everest.

"Your ears are roaring, even at the height of only 4,000 meters, as though there is an airplane about to explode inside your head all the time," Aquino said of his October 2002 trek to Island Peak, one of a combo of mountains around the world's highest peak.

"The hardest thing was the thought that you will give in to your fear, the thought that you can really die there."

With backpacks weighing 35 kilos and seven companions, including a local sherpa guide, the 35-year-old Aquino said he hiked five days before reaching the highest point of his climb.

Island Peak is a tourist destination about 8,700 feet below the summit of Everest, the Himalayan giant which towers roughly 29,035 feet.

The 5-foot, 7-inch, 140-pound Aquino has always had a passion for mountain climbing, having trekked up such mountains as Mt. Apo, Pulag and Halcon, he says.

Later, he went abroad, working as a life guard at a resort in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. It was there where he nurtured his plans of going to Everest, even as part of an organized tour.

Aquino said that his Arab employer was also excited on learning of his plans because he was also an adventurer.

Before leaving Dubai, Aquino had a thorough medical checkup and received vaccination against various diseases.

He spent P200,000 of his savings to buy the equipment he needed and pay for his plane fare as a tourist. When he flew to Nepal, he had a pocket money of $2,000.

"Totally unimaginable" was how Aquino described the moment he reached the top of Island Peak.

"You felt like crying out of joy, like you wanted to jump and jump, no matter how exhausted you were," he said.

Still, the height Aquino reached was well short of the altitude achieved by veteran mountaineer Romi Garduce, who soared higher than any Filipino in 2005 when he scaled Mt. Cho Oyu (26,906 feet), the world's sixth highest mountain, on the Nepal-Tibet border.

Aquino showed this reporter a laminated "adventure certificate" which he said was issued him by the Nepal Vision Treks & Expedition Ltd. and the Department of Tourism of Nepal. It bears the date Oct. 15, 2002 and the time 10:30 a.m.

"When I signed the logbook [at the end of his climb] I wrote down in really big letters that I'm from the Philippines," he said.

Aquino now works as a security warden at the Center for the Ultimate Rehabilitation of Drug Dependents at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig.

Aquino used his vacation leave to make the trip after finding climbing partners via the Internet.

Aquino said he made his final decision to go when a Czech, Peter Butchazeck, told him of his own plan to fly to Nepal in October 2002.

In Katmandu, the pair linked up with mountaineers from other countries and they took a plane to Lukla at the foot of Everest.

He said the climb to Island Peak was extremely difficult not in terms of physical obstacles but of its mental challenge.

Mental challenge

Altitude sickness was more than just the sound of planes roaring in his head.

"You thought you were coming down with fever but it turned out to be altitude sickness," he said. "That is why you have to have intense mental and emotional control. Otherwise, you will get insane thinking about the odd things you are feeling not just inside your body but inside your head," he said in an interview in Filipino. "You don't know if your mind is still working or is already dead."

Before the climb, their guide Lambabu told him of one big "no-no": Never sleep at day. You'll never be able to sleep at night and that would make the climb extra difficult.

Aquino was the lone Filipino in the group that included three Slovaks, three Czechs and the guide. They picked October to do it because it was a month when snow storms are less frequent.

During the climb, Aquino ate dried meat and noodles and drunk a lot of coffee.

Asked if the thought occurred to him to go for the summit of Everest, Aquino said Island Peak was as far as his group's permit allowed.

"But if we had a choice and if it were not dangerous to climb alone, I would have escaped from the group and do it on my own. But that would have been suicide," he said.

Of the more than 2,200 people who

AN OFW/ A26

Inside his backpacks

ARNIEL Aquino carried two backpacks and a knapsack when he climbed one of the mountains around Mount Everest.
Inside his backpacks were:

- Two pairs of up and down jacket used by mountaineers; four pairs of hiking shoes, expensive Solomon shoes which cost the equivalent of more than P5,000 a pair;
- Gloves and head scarf; bonnet; medicines for common illness and a first aid kit; five pieces of light clothing, all white; three pieces of long sleeves;
- Cup noodles; dried meat and sausages called *beltong* which originated in South Africa, sleeping bag, portable stove, tent;
- A camera, a ballpen and notebook.

THAT TOWERING FEELING: Aquino raises Philippine flag, with four of his colleagues, from a peak higher than any Philippine mountain.

Honoring housemates

By Nikko Dizon

IT'S "ARAW NG KASAMBAHAY" today and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has reiterated its commitment to support the causes of the country's thousands of domestic helpers working overseas.

"We proclaim with even greater conviction the DFA's commitment to work for the betterment of the economic and humane conditions of our domestic workers while they toil abroad," Esteban Conejos Jr., DFA undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs, said in a recent statement.

The nationwide event was started six years ago by various organizations including the Visayan Foundation Inc., Samahan at Ugnayan ng mga Manggagawang Pantahanan sa Pilipinas (Sumapi), International Labor Organization and partners from the government sector, NGOs, schools and religious groups, the DFA said.

"Araw ng Kasambahay has served as a venue for intensifying public awareness about the situations and reforms needed in the domestic work sector," Conejos said.

This year, the event will stress the need for the immediate passage of the Batas Kasambahay and for concrete government policies that will realize the National Domestic Workers' Agenda, Conejos said.

Workers' Summit

According to Conejos, the agenda was finalized at the First National Domestic Workers' Summit held in September last year, with the DFA as a major sponsor.

Today's observance of "Araw ng Kasambahay" will be held simultaneously in the cities of Batangas, Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo and Davao, the DFA said.

In Manila, the celebrations will include a Service Fair participated in government agencies such as the DFA, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Social Security System (SSS).

Lawyers' and doctors' groups will likewise offer assistance to domestic helpers, the DFA added.

What they do on their rest day

By Cyril L. Bonabente

FOR OUR KABABAYANS WORKING abroad, days off provide a chance to interact with fellow overseas Filipino workers while doing things they normally do back home—in the process creating their own Philippines in a foreign land, even for a while.

"*Para lang magkasama-sama [kaming mga Pilipino], kahit maliliit na okasyon, gaya ng pagtagal nang isang buwan sa trabaho, ay ipinaghahanda*," relates Greg Bejosano, a site engineer in Dubai. Picnics in parks are common, he says, and these always serve barbecue—a staple in Filipino feasts.

Blacy Bautista, a domestic helper in Hong Kong, considers her Sunday break a "Filipina Day," when she and her Filipina friends can go to the Central Hong Kong Site to eat and swap stories. "*Minsan nagbabaon kami ng pagkain. Kapag ganun, natitikman namin ang mga lutong Pinoy*," she says.

Blacy also values the freedom these gatherings bring. "*Kapag nagkikita-kita kami, walang* inhibition. *Naihihinga namin sa isa't isa yung mga problema namin sa pamilya at sa mga amo namin*," she says.

When faced with problems, the typical Filipino turns to his/her God for strength. This holds true for some OFWs who have to bravely face dilemmas away from their families.

Blacy says she and her friends always go to Protestant churches in Hong Kong. In Italy, Filipinos troop to old Catholic churches like San Lorenzo and Sta. Maria del Carmini, says Wenceslao Gayola, who used to work at the Office for Migrant Workers' Affairs of the foreign affairs department.

'Ukay-ukay'

After going to church, Ma. Julie Monte and husband Manuel, who both assemble spare parts of cars in Kikugawa, Japan, head straight to Avail, the city's version of the ukay-ukay.

"It is a place where you can buy cheap, second-hand products that are in good condition. *Marami kang mabibiling* 'hyaku' yen (100 yen or about P45) *lang tulad ng* stuffed toys," Ma. Julie explains.

Knowing the Pinoy's penchant for cheap finds, the Monte couple always runs into fellow OFWs at Avail. One of them is English teacher Imelda Manuel. "My Filipino friends and I frequent Avail. *Doon talaga maraming* Filipinos," she says.

Manuel Monte shares that OFWs also patronize Grand Araw—a store that sells Filipino products and rents out Filipino movies. "*Pinoy yung may-ari nung lugar. Medyo mahal nga lang yung mga produkto*," he says. The fact that OFWs frequent the place despite steep prices shows how much they value things associated to their home country.

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Growing up without a father

ABSENCE makes the heart grow fonder: Seaman Nonito del Rosario shares good times with wife Tomasita after months or years of being at sea. The writer is the couple's second child.

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

AS A CHILD, I OFTEN WONDERED WHY my father missed most of my birthdays, why he could not make it to my recognition days to pin my medals, or why his seat was empty at Noche Buena on Christmas Eve.

But I did not really care much back then. I am now 21 years old. My 48-year-old father has been working overseas for the last 27 years, more than half of his life. He started as a marine crew in cargo ships in the late 70's right after graduating with a degree in nautical engineering from the Philippine Marine Academy.

When he came home after completing his first contract, he married his girlfriend, my mom, and soon they had a son, my older brother. Three years later, they had me.

Now a chief engineer, my father has spent more time on the high seas than with his family. He would spend 10 to 12 months abroad (at times even longer) before coming home for a vacation of two to three months.

He had been to dozens of places like England, China, Brazil, Japan, Egypt, Greece, Africa, United States, Taiwan, Australia, and Hong Kong, transporting goods—often rice, spices, and the likes.

Sometimes I got envious of my dad, thinking he was leisurely touring the world while the rest of us stayed home.

Who's he?

The airports became familiar, as we saw off my dad at the departure area or waited for his arrival.

Once, when I was about five, my father did not come home for more than two years. I almost forgot him. When I saw him again, I found myself asking, "Who is he again in my life?"

When my dad is away, the responsibility of taking care and raising my brother and I falls solely on my mom's shoulders. She had to deal with our petty quarrels and childish fights. It might not have been easy to raise two boys by herself.

But it would be unfair to my dad to say I grew up without a father. He might not have been physically present all the time but we managed to keep in touch and keep abreast of everyone's life. He would phone us when he got the chance. With the advent of mobile phones, it has become much easier to stay in touch, particularly through text messaging.

Despite the distance, my father is a major influence in any decision I make. I wait patiently for his blessing—via phone or e-mail—before making any major decision like which school to go to or what computer to buy.

Losing respect

It has not always been this way. A couple of years ago, in my teens, I started to lose the respect I had for my father.

He was strict. And when he was home, my daily routine changed. My social life was curtailed because I had to stay home most of the time as my father requested, rather "commanded."

He started telling me what I must become in the future, how I should talk, dress, walk, and eat. He would make me do carpentry and other strenuous chores which I did not normally do when he was not around.

I asked myself why I should respect this person. The man pops up for a couple of months, claims kingship in the house, then takes off again.

I felt he didn't know me and I didn't know him. I thought I managed to live without him for so long so why should he come to my life now?

I was not mad at him. But I just felt I didn't really need him and I wanted my life back to normal—meaning without him.

Maturity, understanding

Eventually, I grew up, matured. Understanding came.

With my rebellious years behind me, I started seeing my father in a new light.

I finally realized how much my father really loved us. The thousand phone calls I took for granted, I now know were signs of how much he missed us.

I felt guilty for the times I would pout because I had to wait beside the phone for his call. Or that I would have to suspend my Internet connection so his call would get through. I felt guilty when it took me forever to compose a text message for him when I can do one in a couple of seconds for someone else.

I now know why he wants us to stay at home when he is on vacation—because he wants to be as close to us as much as possible knowing his vacation time is limited. I understand now that my friends can wait while I spend quality time with my father and the rest of our family.

As a father, I accept his right to give advice, suggestions, and guidance to me, his son. And I am fully aware now why he has to work abroad—for us. For me.

Gratitude

I realize that more than a breadwinner, he is my father. The person who endures the pain of being away from his beloved wife, two sons, and now a grandchild (my brother's daughter).

Now I know I have more than respect or gratitude for him. I love my father so much and someday, I hope to repay all the good things he has done for me.

My father is still working abroad and sacrificing for us. I might have grown without his physical presence, but I'm sure his love for us is always there. That's more than enough for me.

FAST FACTS

Sea-based Overseas Filipino Workers*

-Filipinos account for 28% of total world supply of seafarers

Year	Population	Remittances (in billion US$)
2005	247,751	1.67
2004	229,002	1.46
2003	216,031	1.30
2002	209,593	1.20
2001	204,951	1.09

*Sea-based worker is defined by World Bank as one working in any kind of international fishing, passenger or cargo vessel, and usually has a one-year contract. The National Statistical Coordination Board says a sea-based worker or seaman is any person employed in a vessel engaged in maritime navigation.

SOURCES: ADB, BSP, POEA COMPILED BY PDI RESEARCH

An OFW . . .

From page A25

tried to climb the Everest between 1921—when the first assaults were made—and 2004, more than 180 did not make it back.

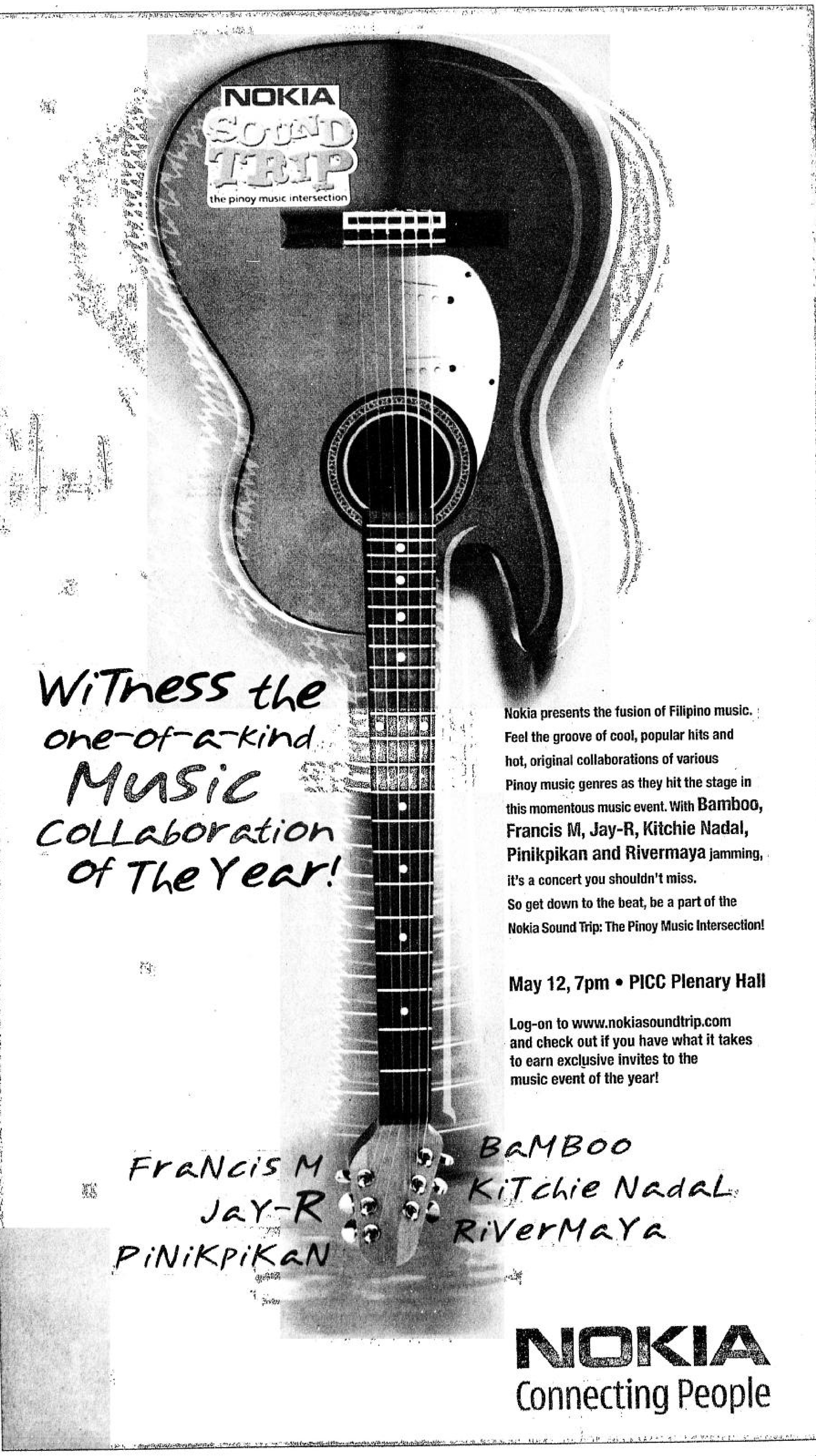
A dream fulfilled

Waving his country's flag from a peak higher than any other Philippine mountain, including the 9,689-foot Apo, was more than what he had wished for.

"More than anything else, pride and glory aside, I want my 2-year old son to know that his father did something to fulfill his dreams using his own savings, blood, sweat and tears," Aquino said.

"It's a personal pride that I kept to myself but realized that my story is worth telling to my fellow Filipinos because I achieved my goal with no corporate or media backing. It was a dream I nurtured and a dream I fulfilled," he said, trying to hold back his tears.

He's praying for the success of the hazardous Everest expeditions now being mounted by two teams separately backed by rival networks GMA-7 and ABS-CBN. The dangers they are facing are very real, he said.



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West vows diplomatic push to end Iran nuclear standoff

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED States led western concern Friday over Iran's failure to stop sensitive nuclear work and vowed to press ahead with a strong resolution at the UN Security Council.

"Iran's desire to have a nuclear weapon is dangerous, in my judgment, and the diplomatic process is just starting," US President George W. Bush said after the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported that Iran had failed to meet a UN deadline to stop uranium enrichment.

The US ambassador to the United Nations, John Bolton, said he would press for the quick adoption of a resolution that would legally bind Iran to freeze its uranium enrichment.

The United States has called for a UN Security Council resolution against Iran under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, which could impose economic sanctions and open the way for possible military action.

Russia and China have spoken against imposing UN sanctions on Iran and Bush highlighted the need for a "common voice" to put pressure on Tehran.

"The world wasn't always of like mind that the Iranians were headed for a weapon and that that would be a dangerous course of action," Bush said.

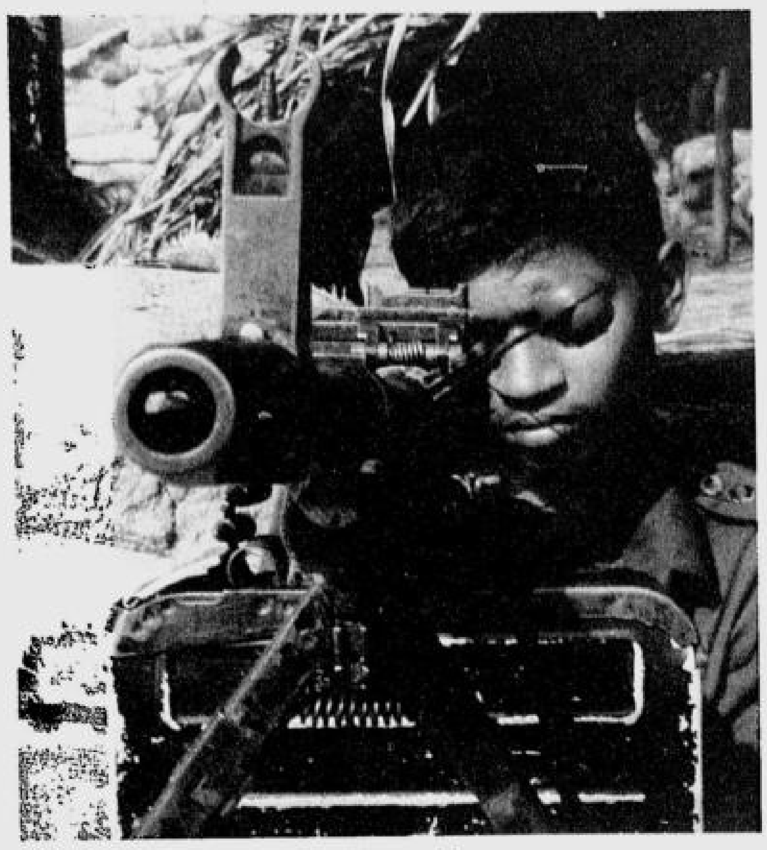
"And now we are of like mind. And so we are in the stage now of formulating a strategy to achieve a diplomatic solution to this problem." US allies called for a strong response at the United Nations.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said it was "very serious that the Iranian regime has failed fully to cooperate with the IAEA and the United Nations Security Council." "We will now be asking the Security Council to increase the pressure on Iran, so that the international community can be assured that its nuclear program is not a threat to peace and security," he added.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair's office called the IAEA report worrying and reaffirmed the need for common agreement on the next diplomatic measures.

France, which along with Britain and Germany held unsuccessful talks with Iran, expressed deep concern over Iran's failure to comply with international demands but said negotiations were still possible.

"It's an alarming situation for the entire international community," said French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy. "We continue to say to Iran however that the door to negotiations has not been closed." After attending a Nato meeting, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said foreign ministers of the 26-nation transatlantic alliance agreed that the international community should form a strong united front. *AFP*



A TAMIL rebel guards their territory with a gun in Sampoor, eastern port of Trincomalee, Sri Lanka April 28. REUTERS

Sri Lanka gov't ready to resume peace talks

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA—EUROPEAN PEACE monitors said Saturday the Sri Lankan government had violated a ceasefire agreement when it launched deadly air strikes on Tamil Tiger rebel territory, as the administration said it was prepared to resume peace talks in Switzerland.

The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission also said it feared that government security forces have been involved in "extrajudicial killings of civilians," and criticized the rebels for installing political and military targets near the civilian population.

The government launched two days of air strikes on rebel positions after a suicide attack in Colombo last Tuesday which wounded the country's top army commander and killed at least 11 others. The air strikes killed 12 people and displaced thousands more.

"The air strikes that were conducted by the Sri Lankan government in Trincomalee district on Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam targets ... are a clear violation of the ceasefire agreement," the SLMM said.

The monitors also urged the government "to refrain from such operations as they can jeopardize the ceasefire further and will only add fuel to the conflict."

The government earlier said it would not launch more air strikes if the guerrillas also stopped their attacks. No violence or air strikes occurred overnight, said military spokesperson Brig. Prasad Samarasinghe.

The SLMM also criticized the rebels, saying it was "inexcusable" of them "to place military or political targets among the civilian population close to schools and private houses." The rebels have said the 12 killed in the air strikes were all civilians.

The monitors also raised fears Saturday that government security forces were conducting extrajudicial killings of civilians. They did not elaborate.

"This violence must stop immediately if the government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE are to make any progress in returning to the negotiation table," they said. *AP*

Lee brands S'pore rivals as 'riffraff'

LEE REUTERS

SINGAPORE—THE man who led Singapore to independence in 1965 said the government's opposition ahead of May 6 elections is a rabble with no chance of winning.

"I want a world-class opposition, not this riffraff," said Lee Kuan Yew, a former prime minister who now holds the Cabinet title of minister mentor. Lee, 82, spoke at a dinner Friday marking the 50th anniversary of Singapore's Foreign Correspondents Association.

The combative comment was vintage Lee as he sparred with foreign journalists over the pace of political change in tightly controlled Singapore. He said he did not want his country to sink into political upheaval similar to that of Thailand and the Philippines.

Lee displayed his taste for verbal jousting, cutting off one journalist who began to ask about the salaries of Cabinet ministers.

"This is a government that is above board financially," Lee said to an audience of several hundred journalists, diplomats and business executives in a hotel ballroom. "We will not allow anybody to say that we put our fingers into the till."

Then he warned: "You're not going to intimidate me, ever."

Looking sprightly and alert, Lee often sharply questioned his inquisitors, and raised his forefinger to stab home an argument. *AP*

Enrollment-to-Employment System:
Giving students the competitive edge

Beyond the walls of colleges and universities is a highly competitive world. Students need to be prepared for this through education. But education should never be confined to learning the solutions to mind-boggling equations or knowing which best skill to apply.

More than acting as a training ground for students, an educational institution should serve as a microcosm of the real world. This is because as students finish their degrees, they are up for tougher competition among other job hunters.

Opportunities for work come to those who are prepared for it. Employers find it difficult to look for competent graduates in the same manner that graduates find job opportunities extremely scarce.

A school should continue to reinvent itself to better prepare its students to the demands of the real world. Like STI, it introduced a new approach to human resource development which emphasizes the need to develop students in various aspects to give them a competitive edge when they graduate.

STI has developed a unique system called the Enrollment-to-Employment System (E2E System) which is a complete approach to human resource development. This system provides real life education and employment support to students when they graduate.

According to STI, its E2E system is comprised of four parts namely: Learning Systems Development, Academic Delivery System, Student Certification Program, and Job Placement Assistance Program. The four components put together attend to the student's needs from the time he enrolls at STI up to the time he applies for a job.

For instance, through the Learning Systems Development, students learn skills that companies are looking for. This is vital because companies are now more demanding of the quality of services and products they get.

Learning Systems Development goes hand in hand with STI's Academic Delivery System which makes sure that all students from STI's network of more than 100 schools get the same quality education from its pool of highly qualified faculty members.

Moving further, STI also assists students in going through assessment and Certification Programs through its partnership with Universal Workers, Inc., a training and review company that provides healthcare workers and other professionals with advanced skills to make them more competitive in the global market.

To complete its system is a component that gives employment support to students who have graduated or are about to graduate. Through STI's partnership with placement agency Global Resource for Outsourced Workers, Inc. or GROW, graduates are presented with various job opportunities.

Graduates are also linked to employers through regular job fairs and STI's online job matching system called I-CARES or the Interactive Career Assistance and Recruitment System. With I-CARES, STI graduates are linked to employers with just a click of a mouse.

There is no better reward for a student than to have a job after college. And there is no better reward for a school than to produce quality graduates that will soon contribute to the development of the nation.

For a school like STI, this is a mission it has accomplished and will continue to pursue.

E2E System
ENROLLMENT-TO-EMPLOYMENT

A Dream Fulfilled

Some realizations come early in life. And in his early years in high school, James Marie Banares, already knew he was going to take up Computer Science.

But as he was about to finish his high school, James was presented with so many choices. There were many college courses being offered and each one presented bright prospects.

It was an STI Information Technology Caravan in Meycauayan, Bulacan that finally convinced James to pursue his life-long dream. It was a tough but a good choice for James.

James was a consistent Dean's Lister at STI College-Meycauayan and later in STI College-Fairview where he graduated Cum Laude. He now works in technical support for ePLDT Ventus, a subsidiary of telecom giant PLDT.

James Marie Banares
Cum Laude
BS Computer Science
STI
Batch 2005

Real Life Formula for Success

Benjamin Carbonell is a born achiever. He was president of his school's Student Council and led a group that produced one of the best thesis for STI College-Fairview.

The highlight of his student life was when he graduated Magna Cum Laude with a degree in Computer Science.

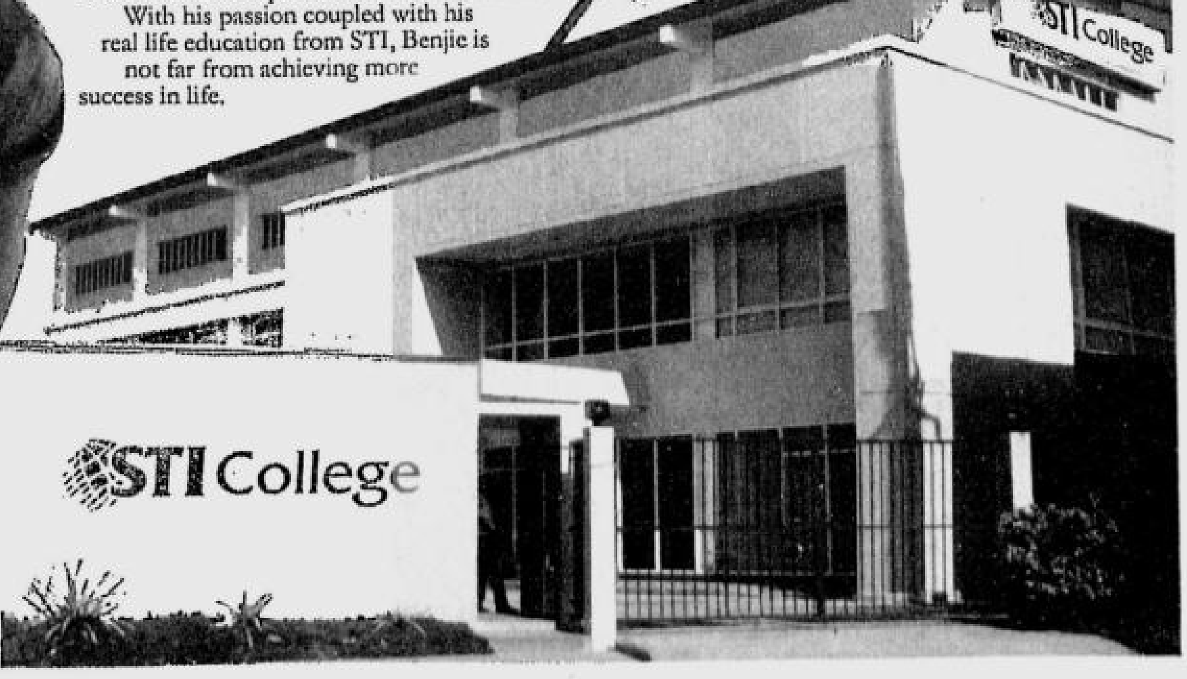
Now, he works as a data analyst for Accenture, a multinational company with operations throughout the United States, Canada, and the Philippines.

Benjie gathered not only knowledge but plenty of wisdom from his experiences in STI College-Fairview, two things that made him confident to brave the corporate world.

According to Benjie, it is his great enthusiasm for acquiring not only knowledge but also wisdom from God that helps him achieve his dreams.

With his passion coupled with his real life education from STI, Benjie is not far from achieving more success in life.

Benjamin Carbonell
Magna Cum Laude
BS Computer Science
STI
Batch 2005



The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Raid fails to capture SEA terror chief Noordin Top

JAKARTA, INDONESIA—ONE OF Southeast Asia's most-wanted terrorists escaped capture when security forces launched a raid on his hideout early Saturday, sparking a gunbattle that left two militants dead, police said.

Noordin Top, regarded as a key leader of the al-Qaida-linked group Jemaah Islamiyah, was not in the safe house when heavily armed police arrived before dawn, national police chief Gen. Sutanto told reporters.

"Noordin M. Top was not found yet and we are still searching for him," he said in the capital, Jakarta, after visiting the scene of the operation.

Authorities started staking out the location in Binangun, a village in Central Java, three months ago, "but when they launched their raid at around 3 a.m., he was gone," police spokesperson Brig. Gen. Anton Bahrul Alam told el-Shinta radio.

Residents told el-Shinta they heard a fierce hour-long gun and grenade battle and that helicopters were flying overhead. Roads leading to the house were blocked off and ambulances kept on standby.

Black-clad anti-terror forces, hunkered behind shields, fired machine guns and grenades before moving in on a one-story building where the men were hiding. A single, barefooted suspect was led from the scene, his hands cuffed behind his back.

Sutanto said those killed were Abdul Hadi, also known as Bambang, and Jabir, alleged key players in several attacks in Indonesia in recent years which left dozens dead.

"The slain terrorists were the main perpetrators in several terrorist acts. They have bomb making capabilities," he said. "In the safe house we found handmade bombs and documents."

Gen. Sutanto said Jabir assembled the bombs used in deadly attacks in Jakarta at the Australian Embassy in 2004 and the J.W. Marriott hotel in 2003. Abdul Hadi was a recruiter of suicide bombing candidates, he said.

Police arrested two suspects, identified only as Solahudin and Mustafirin, who took part in a failed attempt to attack a Jakarta shopping mall in 2001.

"Mustafirin told police that Noordin was not in the house, that he separated from him in the town of Temanggung in December," Sutanto said.

Abdul Hadi and Jabir, both alleged explosives experts, also are accused of participating in a failed assassination attempt against former President Megawati Sukarnoputri in 2003.

"Jabir, who was wanted for the Australian Embassy bombing and was hardcore, had been close to Noordin Top for years and apparently had been traveling with him," said Ken Conboy, a Jakarta-based security consultant.

Conboy said Noordin and others will find it increasingly difficult to keep away from authorities, despite a substantial network of supporters who help shelter them, as the number of fugitives at large diminishes.

"They are running out of places to go. The only places they are going is the heart of radicalism, in Central Java and sometimes East Java," he said by phone from Jakarta.

Noordin Top allegedly was a close associate of the late Azahari bin Husin, an alleged leading member of Jemaah Islamiyah who was killed in an arrest attempt in November. *AP*

NOOR DIN MOCH TOP

LATEST picture, right, of Malaysian terror suspect Noordin Mohamad Top who police say has changed his appearance to look like photo on left. AP

THE EMPIRE State Building seen from the newly renovated "Top of the Rock" observation deck at Rockefeller Center in New York in this October 26, 2005 photo. REUTERS

Iconic Empire State Building turns 75

By Giles Hewitt

NEW YORK—KING KONG FAmously climbed it, aliens blew it up in "Independence Day" and more than a few New Yorkers have opted to end their lives by plunging from its dizzying heights.

The iconic status of the Empire State Building, which turns 75 on Monday, has stretched far beyond the confines of New York City to make it one of the world's most recognizable structures—in the same rank as the Eiffel Tower or the Taj Mahal.

Though less striking than its art deco rival, the Chrysler Building, and lacking the charm of the Rockefeller Center, the Empire State has captured the public imagination more than both and draws four million visitors a year to its observation deck.

Its enduring preeminence can partly be attributed to the fact that, following its completion in 1931, the 1,250-foot high skyscraper reigned unchallenged as the world's tallest building for four decades.

Two years later King Kong had his first date with the Empire State, sparking a lasting Hollywood love affair that included a starring role for the building alongside Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr in the 1957 tear-jerker "An Affair to Remember." Other associations have been anything but romantic.

A few weeks before the skyscraper opened, a carpenter on the construction crew jumped to his death from the 78th floor—the first in a long line of suicides attracted by the highest drop in the city.

The number of "jumpers" proliferated in the economically tough 1930s and '40s and, in December 1947, a supposedly suicide-proof fence was installed to deter the desperate.

Over the 75 years, around 35 people have managed to end their lives at the Empire State—most recently last February when a young man gained access to an empty office on the 66th floor and leaped from the window.

Security guards have long patrolled the observation deck on the 86th floor and just last Thursday managed to foil an attempt by a stunt man to parachute off the building after he had scaled the 10-foot fence.

Work on the skyscraper began in 1929, jut a few days after the great stock market crash of the same year.

Amid the onset of the depression era, the soaring project quickly became a symbol of optimistic defiance with construction gangs competing against each other and raising the structure at the astonishing rate of five floors a week.

It was completed in just 13 months.

"It would be hard to imagine another building ever having so much symbolic power in the American landscape," said Mark Kingwell, author of the forthcoming book "Nearest Thing to Heaven: The Empire State Building and American Dreams."

"Nothing on earth had been completed as quickly and to such a substantial degree as the Empire State Building," Kingwell told the Manhattan daily, AM New York.

But for all its iconic significance, it initially struggled to fulfill its primary function as an office building with much of its space going unrented until the 1940s.

The lack of inhabitants earned it the nickname, the "Empty State Building"—a moniker that has regained currency in recent years which have seen the vacancy rate rise again to nearly 20 percent.

Another plan that went awry concerned the building's distinctive art deco spire which was originally designed to be a mooring mast and depot for zeppelins.

However, after a couple of test attempts with airships, the idea proved to be impractical and dangerous due to the powerful updrafts caused by the size of the building itself.

Another brush with aircraft came in 1945 when a B-25 Mitchell bomber accidentally crashed into the north side between the 79th and 80th floors, killing 14 people.

During the accident, elevator operator Betty Lou Oliver survived a plunge of 75 stories and still holds the Guinness World Record for the longest recorded elevator fall. *AFP*

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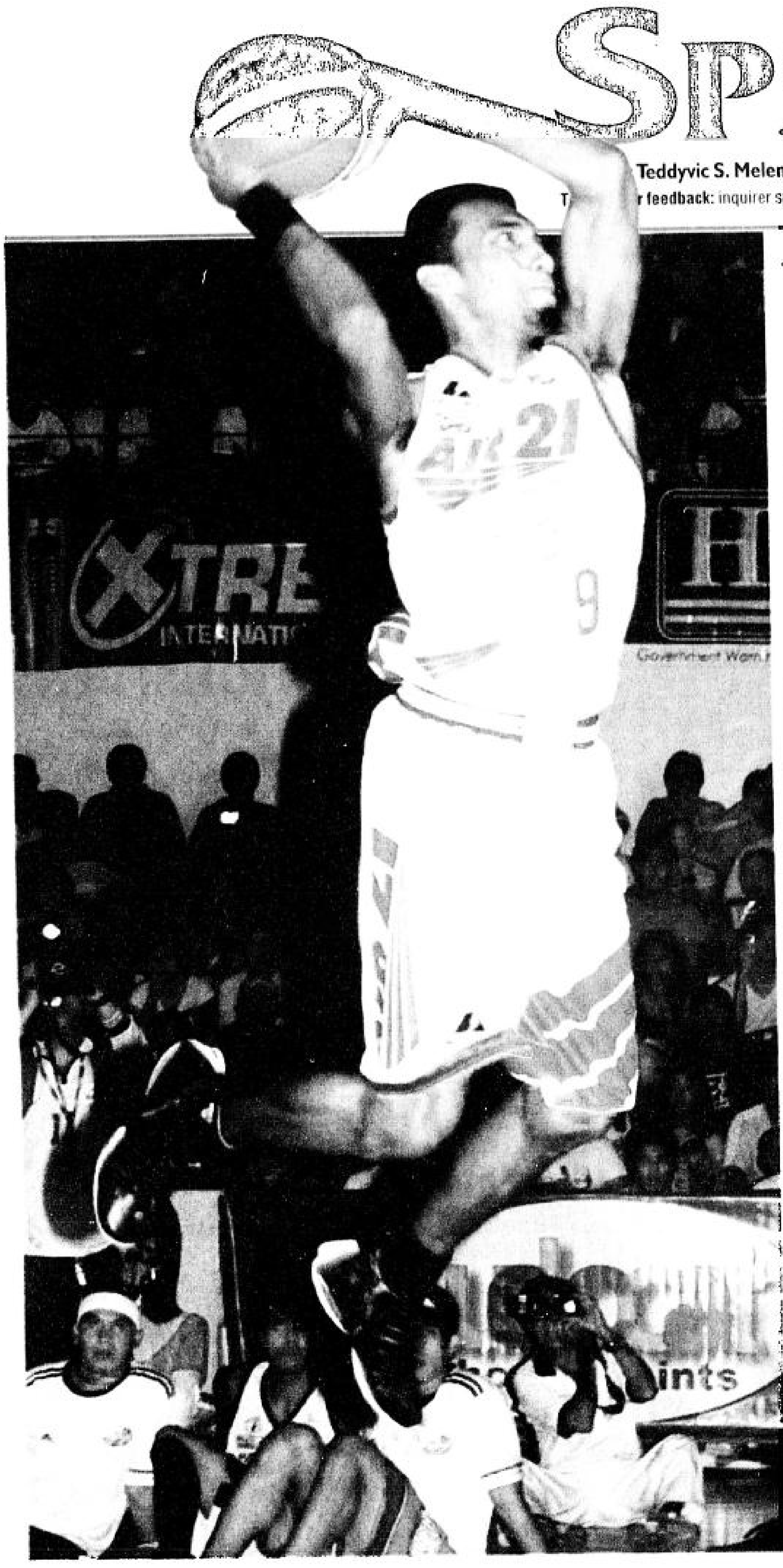
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NIÑO Canaleta elevates en route to ruling the slam dunk competition Thursday. ERIK ARAZAS

Yap fuels South win over North

By June Navarro

CAGAYAN DE ORO—BEING A FIRST-TIMER IN the All-Stars, Roger Yap had very little reason to find himself in the limelight.

But the Purefoods playmaker ended up right there, making the key place in the South All-Stars' 122-120 win over the North squad in the 2006 Hope PBA All-Star Week last night at the Xavier University here.

Yap split his charities after a foul from Enrico Villanueva and grabbed the rebound off his own miss with four seconds left, paving the way for the South to bounce back from last year's defeat and level their series with the North at 3-3 since the All-Star game was institutionalized in 1989.

Yap's heroics sealed Asi Taulava's second All-Star MVP award. The hulking center shared the accolade in 2004 with Talk 'N Text teammate Jimmy Alapag.

Taulava had 30 points and his 16 rebounds surpassed the record of 15 boards set by Jerry Codiñera in 1992.

"We were lucky the breaks went our way," said South coach Jong Uichico, who won his second All-Star game. He led the Rookies-sophomores-juniors to victory in 2001.

Danny Ildefonso had 26 points on top of 15 rebounds, three assists and three blocks to lead the North.

North starter Marc Caguioa of Barangay Ginebra never showed up and could be fined P20,000. Danny Espiritu, Caguioa's agent, said his ward got hurt in a previous game.

Earlier, Jojo Lastimosa fired 14 decisive points to secure the crown for the legends in the Legends Shootout for the third straight time.

The All-Star Weekend was sponsored by Welcoat Paints, Xtreme Magic Sing, Chowking, Accel, Air21 and Sunbolt.

Meanwhile, the exhibition game between a Northern Mindanao executive team led by Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno and a PBA selection headed by league commissioner Noli Eala ended in a draw, 86-all.

ABC-5 sportscasters and former PBA players Jason Webb and Richard Del Rosario led the PBA selection along with sportswriters Nelson Beltran, June Navarro, Noli Cortez and Zean Macamay.

Navarro's three-point play with 29 seconds left pegged the final count. The PBA selection could have won it in regulation but Eala's missed a potential game-winner at the buzzer.

The scores:

SOUTH 122—Taulava 30, Reavis 17, Hontiveros 16, R. Yap 15, J. Yap 15, Seigle 10, Alapag 9, Hugnatan 4, Baguio 4, Peña 2, Menk 0.

NORTH 120—Ildefonso 26, Villanueva 20, Ritualo 18, Racela 16, Miller 10, Raymundo 9, Belasco 8, Arigo 8, Helterbrand 5,

Quarters: 33-31, 66-63, 96-94, 122-120

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Reyes heads Team RP in Asian 9-Ball /A31
- Jewels regain luster, trip Teletech in PBL Unity Cup /A30
- NBA Legends preparing harder for RP Team /A32

- Lakers put Suns in a black hole /A33

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Eaglets, Greenies dispute finals berth today

ATENEO AND LA SALLE-GREENHILLS clash today for a seat in the high school division finals of the Total-Filoil-Flying V Homegrown Cup at the San Juan gym.

The San Beda Red Cubs await the winner of the Blue Eaglets—Greenies match, which is set at 3 p.m.

The championship is scheduled on May 6 and will serve as the prelude to the game pitting the San Beda All-Stars and their La Salle counterparts for the alumni title.

Lorenzo Katipunan scored 19 points as Ateneo plastered UP Integrated School, 102-60, slamming the door on the hopes of the Far Eastern Baby Tamaraws.

In the final all-star game UP edged Ateneo 70-67, while FEU bested San Beda, 100-92.

The scores:

ATENEO 102—Katipunan 19, Gamboa M. 17, Austria 12, Balmaceda 10, Rivera 10, Golla 8, Aportadera 7, Gonzaga 6, Gamboa K. 4, Valera 3, Esquivel 2.

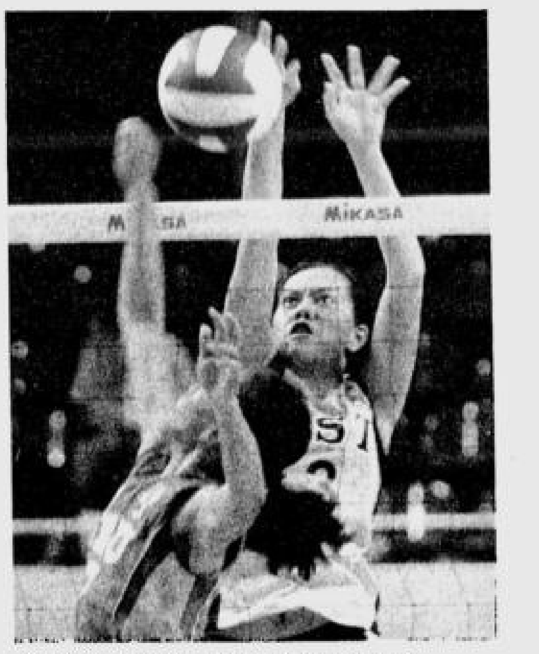
UPIS 60—Buena 15, Sanchez 13, Tolentino 9, Marata 5, Cruz 5, Espiritu 4, Bautista 4, Lazo 3.

Quarters: 26-14, 52-27, 80-42, 102-60

UP 70—Ferrer 19, Arandia 15, Marata 11, Yu 11, Salva 8, Garcia 2.

ATENEO 67—Sison 26, Arespacochaga 10, Henares 9, Tioseco J. 8, Gamboa 4, Afable 4, Narvasa 0.

Quarters: 12-19, 34-26, 56-48, 70-67



AN FEU spiker gets blocked by a UST defender.

RYAN LIM

Jewels regain luster, trip Teletech in PBL Unity Cup

By Jasmine W. Payo

A GUTSY AL VERGARA BURIED A three-pointer with barely a second left to lift the Montaña Jewels to a thrilling 64-63 escape over the TeleTech Titans in the PBL Unity Cup yesterday at the Olivarez Sports Center.

Vergara's unlikely game-winner from the left corner with seven-tenths of a second remaining capped a mighty comeback by the Jewels from seven points down inside the final two minutes.

The win, their seventh in nine games, boosted the Jewels back into the lead with idle Rain or Shine.

"In the stretch that we needed points, I put Vergara in," said coach Nel Parado of the 5-foot-7 point guard, who scored a game-high 17 points on a 3-of-3 shooting clip from beyond the arc.

"The (last) play was not for him but he took the shot and nailed it. We really needed the win and the players showed it."

It was the sixth straight loss in a 1-8 card for the Titans, who blew a huge lead for the second straight game.

Alex Compton contributed 14 points for Montaña, including a key triple with 48.3 ticks left that got the Jewels back in the fight.

In the second game, Granny Goose started out strong and coasted to a 65-45 victory against an out-of-sync Magnolia Ice Cream side.

Leaning on a balanced attack, the Tortillos scored their first back-to-back wins for a fourth-best 5-4 record.

"It was a big win against Magnolia. We had a good game thanks to our defense," said Tortillos coach Robert Sison.

With Magnolia unable to buy a basket, Granny Goose zoomed to a 32-9 advantage late in the second quarter.

The Spinners, who scored a measly 16 points in the first half, slipped to 4-5.

Larry Rodriguez opened the fourth period with seven straight points to push the Jewels ahead, 54-52.

GAMES TODAY
(Olivarez Sports Center)
2 p.m.—Rain or Shine vs Harbour Centre
4 p.m.—Hapee-PCU vs Toyota Otis

The scores:

First Game

MONTAÑA 64—Vergara 17, Compton 14, Bono 13, Rodriguez 9, Baguion 4, Guerrero 3, Espiritu 2, Dela Cuesta 2, Atablanco 0, Magpayo 0, Juntilla 0.

TELETECH 63—Mercado 12, Sierra 7, Doruelo 7, Magdadaro 6, Tang 6, Gelig 5, Latoreno 5, Capus 4, Duncil 4, Tolentino 3, Villamin 2, Estrada 2, Mendoza 0, Labitag 0.

Quarters: 10-18, 26-41, 47-52, 64-63

Second Game

GRANNY GOOSE 65—Saldua 8, Concha 8, Ibañes 8, Alfad 7, Santos 7, Latonio 6, Cruz 6, Dela Peña 5, Grijaldo 4, Quiñahan 2, Ferrer 2, David 2, Gavino 0, Chua 0, Ababon 0.

MAGNOLIA 45—Williams 15, Santos 12, Isip 4, Dela Cruz 3, Co 3, Rizada 3, Jones 3, Barcellano 1, Misolas 1, Natividad 0, Bombeo 0, Te 0, Valenzuela 0.

Quarters: 19-8, 34-16, 53-33, 65-45

GERMAN ace Xu Hualwen shows form

Germany joins RP Open Badminton

GERMANY, Thailand and Finland signed up for the first Bingo Bonanza Philippine Open Badminton Championships, bringing to 16 the number of teams that have confirmed their participation in the inaugural staging of the event beginning May 24 at the Philsports Arena. Xu Hualwen, the world's No. 4 ladies singles player, is expected to lead Germany's bid in the $120,000 tournament that has attracted Malaysia, Singapore, India, Canada, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, England, Vietnam, Austria and host Philippines. For details, contact Joel Maborang at +63 926-5973222 or e-mail joebm_13@yahoo.com and aglipay@globequest.com.ph.

FEU spikers demolish UE

GAMES TOMORROW *(Blue Eagle Gym)*
4 p.m.—PCU vs UE
6 p.m. —Adamson vs SSC-R

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FAR EASTERN GOT 26 BIG POINTS FROM Mary Ann Manalo and the Lady Tamaraws went on to whip newcomer University of the East, 25-22, 22-25, 25-11, 25-18, last night for their first victory in the Shakey's V-League at the Blue Eagle Gym.

Manalo, the 22-year-old team captain, attacked with reckless abandon and got 23 of her total from kills as Far Eastern bounced back from an opening game loss to Lyceum, 26-24, 25-23, 16-25, 25-19.

Rachel Ann Daquis provided ample support, accounting for another 14 points, while Wendy Ann Semana delivered 10 points, nine of them on spikes, as FEU posted the win in one hour and 39 minutes.

Also contributing for the Lady Tams were Ma. Josephine Cafranca, who had 10 points, and Anna Camille Abanto, who chipped in with nine.

The Lady Warriors caught the Lady Tams napping somewhat in the second set to level the match at a set-all before eventually losing for the second straight time.

Suzanne Roces led the Lady Warriors with 14 points. Catherine Sotejo also scored 10 markers, while Ginaflor Alanguilan and Angelica Perez each scored five points for UE. *With reports from Lawrence Kionisala*

Iligan tackles Montaña five

ILIGAN CITY—THE MINDANAO DIVISION semifinals of the ML Kwarta Padala Mindanao Visayas Basketball Association (MVBA) First Conference begin today with top seed Iligan City hosting fourth seed Montaña Pawnshop-Davao in Game One of their best-of-three series at the MSU-IIT Gym starting at 5:30 p.m.

Iligan of Mayor Lawrence Cruz topped the elimination round with a 7-1 win-loss card. Montaña of Armando Quibod finished with an even 4-4 record. Along the way, Iligan defeated Montaña twice—90-83 last Feb. 26 at the MSU-IIT Gym and 104-97 in overtime in Maramag, Bukidnon last April 8.

Expect a shootout with the Mindanao Division's top five scorers seeing action in the games backed by ML Kwarta Padala, Cokaliong Shipping Lines, Nature's Spring Drinking Water, Molten, Panasonic and Sulpicio Lines.

Iligan has the top three scorers in the Mindanao Division in forwards Alex Bognot (17.9 ppg) and Marvin Tundag (16.7 ppg) and center Erickson Araman (16.7 ppg) plus a fourth scoring threat in guard Aries Gloria (11.7 ppg).

Montaña Coach Dodong Cagampang will counter with Mindanao's fourth and fifth best scorers in forward Dado Ayson (15.0 ppg) and team captain Randy Panerio (14.6 ppg). Center Philip Butel and guard Ryan Abanes have also put up good games recently.

Game Two will be at the Panabo City Gym in Davao del Norte on May 3. If needed, the series goes back to the MSU-IIT Gym for Game Three on May 12.

Second seed PacMan-GenSan (5-3) of boxing idol Manny Pacquiao and third seed Pryce Pharma-MisOr (4-4) of MVBA chair, Gov. Oscar Moreno begin their own best-of-three semifinal on May 4 at the Lagao Gym.

Meanwhile, the Mantawi Traders complete their swing of Western Visayas when they meet the Toyota-Iloilo. The Iloilo Basketball League-backed Warriors gun for their first win while the Traders of Mayor Thadeo Ouano hope to fortify their Visayas Division semifinal chances. The Traders were battling the West Negros College Mustangs at the Talisay City Gym at press time last night.

We have a winner

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

A WINNER EVEN BEFORE THE FIGHT contract could be signed.

That's Manny Pacquiao, in case you have forgotten.

And yes, you bet, Pacquiao will defeat Mexico's Oscar Larios by knockout.

Larios is tailor-fit for Pacquiao since the Mexican loves to fight toe to toe. Larios having thrown the most punches in a single round in the 130-lb division—was it 1,620?—is a stat Pacquiao welcomes with open arms. It could only mean one thing: Larios loves to fight—a perfect trait that Pacquiao treats like dessert.

What round the knockout is going to happen, Pacquiao isn't saying.

"No predictions for me," said Pacquiao in Filipino during the press conference announcing the fight on Friday at ABS-CBN studios. "Let's just say come and enjoy watching the fight. It's for you, my beloved countrymen."

Freddie Roach, Pacquiao's American trainer, parrots Pacquiao's line.

"I'm not saying what round it's going to end," said Roach, the only man Pacquiao listens to on fight matters. On money matters, leave that to Shelley Finkel, Pacquiao's wealthy American manager who doesn't think twice putting his ward in an expensive hotel suite, plasmaTV/jacuzzi and all, days before a fight.

"The fight is for 12 rounds," said Roach. "We train for every single round. Every round could be a knockout round."

If, until now, you still can't believe Roach, you better start believing.

Roach it was who hugely helped polish Pacquiao's raw power. From merely a pure brawler, Pacquiao has metamorphosed into a stylist; you saw that in full bloom in the last Morales fight, right?

Combine power and style and you have a perfect fighter in Pacquiao, almost in the mold already of such greats like Muhammad Ali, Sugar Ray Leonard, Marvelous Marvin Hagler and, to a certain extent, Oscar De La Hoya.

But more than that, it is Roach's hypnotic power that has transformed Pacquiao into a mean, killing machine atop the ring. There is no single person other than Roach that has influenced Pacquiao's mindset on fight strategies the last five years or so.

So, when talks flew wild and thick that Pacquiao won't train in the US for the Larios fight, Roach, true to his calling, quickly made his move. He boarded the next available flight to Manila and, just hours upon landing, made Pacquiao change his mind.

So take heed. Pacquiao deciding to train in the US has virtually sealed doom for Larios. It is, to use a much-abused cliché, a kiss of death for the Mexican.

Every person has a weakness. Pacquiao is a lover of life. He loves life's perks such as the good time, which is but normal for one with a brutally sad, angry and hungry childhood.

A poor, stowaway kid at 14 now suddenly a millionaire at under-30, why, you can't blame Pacquiao if, at times if not oftentimes, he indulges and goes bang-bang here and goes bang-bang there—if you know what I mean.

More to the point, Pacquiao loves billiards, cockfighting and late night binges on pleasures both good and bad. And yes, also wine and roses—again, if you know what I mean. All that is an athlete's passport to self-destruction, a boxer's surefire poison if taken in overdose which Pacquiao is prone to doing with Roach not close by. Thus, should Congress make Roach a Filipino, why, that'd be justified any time it's done.

With Roach around, we have a winner in Pacquiao 99.99 percent of the time.

So to the moneyed, proceed and reserve your tickets now for that choice ringside seat at the Araneta Coliseum come July 2.

For me?

Well, I'll join the queue for that precious free ticket at general admission offered by ABS-CBN. Just say when, what time and where, and I'll come running.

Now, if Peter Musngi (hey, buddy, you did well anchoring the presscon on Friday) proves to be saintly once more and tells me to pick up my two tickets at a Bantay Bata Foundation outlet, I'll gladly do it. If in the mood, I might even give one ticket to a tot of 13 or above from the BB Foundation who may yet consider Pacquiao his role model.

As a bonus, I'll offer to chaperone the kid to the fight.

No big deal.

***

FASTBREAK. The Fil-Estate Sports Foundation will hold the Manila Southwoods Tennis Academy, a pet project of chair Bob Sobrepena, on May 2-28 at Southwoods in Carmona. Accel, Metro Rail Transit, Wilson, Gaspeed Motor Shop and The Manila Times are supporting the tennis camp now on its eighth year. Call Len Gregorio at (046) 430-0260 or Manny/Linda Tecson at (02) 938-9522, (02) 939-4851 for more details… Please pray for the soul of Paul Beltran, the kind-hearted husband of my niece, Chatty Boluso. Chatty is the daughter of my Ate Lourdes from Calauag, Quezon, and Roxas City. Paul died on April 27 and his remains lie at St. Peter along Quezon Blvd., Q.C. Interment has yet to be announced.

***

Comments to menju@pldtdsl.net

Olivarez, Ho gain

TOP SEED SHANINE OLIVAREZ AND SECOND pick Jasmine Tan Ho scored contrasting wins yesterday to advance to the girls' 12-under finals of the 2006 Toby's Age-Group Tennis Championships at the Metropolitan Club in Makati City.

Olivarez downed Macy Gonzales, 6-0, 6-3, while Tan Ho rallied past Joana Peña, 7-6 (5), 6-3.

In the girls' 16-under division, top seed Jessica Agra outclassed Martina Guba, 6-1 6-2, to advance to the semifinals against Clarice Patrimonio, who scored a 6-0, 6-3 victory over Irina Quinatadcan. Also advancing were No. 2 Trudy Gine Amoranto, who won by default over Janine Salgado, and Christine Patrimonio, a 6-0, 6-2 winner over Sarah Jane Lim.

In the girls' 14-under class, No. 1 Regina Santiago downed Clarice Patrimonio, 7-6 (4), 6-1, No. 2 Zhane Quitara clobbered Irina Quinatadcan, 6-0, 6-1, Sarah Jane Lim prevailed over Chynna Mamawal, 6-0, 6-4, and Martina Guba defeated Therese Opulencia, 6-2, 6-0, to earn semifinal berths in this event supported by Prince, Aktivade, Equipe, Eastpak, Nassau and Powerbar.

In the boys' 18-under category, No. 2 Ralph Barte defeated Romel Openiano, 6-0, 7-5, and Johnwill Baldonado survived Christian Canlas, 7-6 (6), 6-3, to join James Murrell and Keff Gamana in the semifinals. Winners in the boys' 16-under division were No. 1 Mark Balce over Homer Perez, 6-2, 6-0, Patrick Arevalo over John Guevarra, 6-1, 6-1, Von Dellaban over Carlo Yoldi, 6-0, 6-0, and Jonathan Murrell over Juan Fidel Regis, 4-6, 6-0, (7-3).

In the boys' 12-under division, top seed Dheo Talatayod demolished Prince Salvacion, 6-1, 6-, to advance in the semis against Arjohn dela Cruz, a 6-2, 6-3 winner over Angelo Rivero. Second pick Calvin Canlas downed Enrique Ferrer, 6-3, 6-0, to advance against Juan Alfonso Opulencia, who rallied past John Ribuya, 6-3, 2-6, (7-3).

Boxing Kontra Droga

THE BOXING KONTRA DROGA RUMBLE AT THE mall will be held today, starting 4 p.m. at the Activity Center of Festival Supermall in Muntinlupa City. The fight card promoted by Johnny Elorde will have Luzproba No. 3 bantamweight contender Monico Laurente fighting RP No. 8 superflyweight Rene Banares in the main event. Wendel Cajoles and Gerald Ubatay battle it out at 180 lbs. Four round bouts will pit Reward Menusa against Reymart Gupit, Benny Talbo versus Rey Richard de. Valle and Joemar Elorde against Ceno Quelatar.

RP pugs enter Comet Cup

A STRONG PHILIPPINE BOXING team, deep in preparations for the 2006 Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, will see action in the Ahmet Comet Cup XXI International Senior and Female boxing tournament from May 1-8 in Istanbul, Turkey. Asian champions bantamweight Joan Tipon and lightweight Mitchel Martinez will carry the brunt of the Philippine campaign in the slugfest to be participated by world-class European and Asian boxers. Also competing in the annual event are Albert Pabila, Warlito Parrenas, Anthony Marcial, Gretchen Abaniel and Jennifer Pecking. "We're ready and rarin' to fight," said head coach Alexander Arroyo, who, like Martinez is a member of the PNP. Head of the delegation is Northern Samar Governor and ABAP chair Raul Daza.

MARTINEZ

Jose Rizal bombs Far Eastern

THE JOSE RIZAL HEAVY BOMBERS scored their second straight win in the Fr. Martin's Cup Nike Summer League after blasting Far Eastern University-B, 66-61, yesterday at the Emilio Aguinaldo College Gym in Manila.

Jose Rizal held the Tamaraws to only 21 points in the first half and shot at a steady rate from the perimeter to take leads of as many as 22 points in the third and coast to the win.

"We were able to turn our opponents' miscues to points that won us the game, JRU coach Chris Calinag said.

The Tamaraws fell behind early, 12-19, and a 20-6 surge by the Bombers got the job done for Jose Rizal.

Ace guard JR Sena spearheaded the Bombers to a 22-point advantage nearing the final two-minute mark of the third canto.

In Junior action, the UE Pages carved out a 60-57 win over the Santo Tomas, dealing the Tiger Cubs a second straight loss after almost blowing a 17-point lead.

San Sebastian-Manila won over San Beda-B, 89-66 in women's play, even as the Lyceum Pirates outplayed San Beda College, 63-56, in the other seniors game. *Llanesca Panti*

Triple Crown hopes clash; 7 big races up

By Musong R. Castillo

CARMONA, CAVITE—FOUR bright hopes in the coming Triple Crown series see action today in one of eight special races that will end the 32nd Marho Founders' Cup Racing Festival at the San Lazaro Leisure Park here.

Speedball Million Dollar, to be steered by Jonathan Hernandez, and stayer King's Dominion are fancied in the Inocencio Crisostomo Cup, a 1,500-meter race among prospective Triple Crown bets serving as one of the day's highlights.

Dixie The Younger (CV Garganta), the promising three-year-old bay colt, and Batong Silyar (AB Alcasid Jr.), an entry from the respected Red N Stable, are the other two entries in the race that stakes P200,000 to the winner.

The first leg of the prestigious series, set on May 14, is considered a wide-open affair after Juggernaut, the top Triple Crown hopeful this year, was operated on a month back to take out bone chips in his front knees.

Another big race—the Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. Cup—will be a toss-up among 11 entries.

Australian-import Mamaya is the logical favorite in the P500,000 race over the mile.

The four-year-old bay filly will be coming into the race fresh from clocking an impressive 1 minute 34.6 seconds over 1,500 meters two weeks ago over the same track.

Leave No Doubt, which will be piloted by Patty Dilema, is another imported entry and is tipped to give Mamaya a good fight like Native Land, another Hernandez-steered mount.

The two-day festival is a tribute to all the people who created the Metropolitan Race Horse Owners Association, which was principally founded by former Ambassador Cojuangco in 1974.

There are actually a total of 15 big races, all named after the founding directors of the association. Seven of them were run yesterday.

REYES

RACING TIPS

Race 1—(Tri)-Col Town (2), Money For Rap (1), War Bird (3)

Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)-Looney Tune (4), Iron Chef (5), Rich and Famous (8), Treasure Island (7), King's Crown (1)

Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)-Gone With the Wind (3), Indian Boy (6), Prime Enforcer (1), Triple Threat (2)

Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)-Sovereign's Dancer (6), Color O fThe Wind (1), He's SO Lucky (7), Fashion Victim/Elegant Fashion (5)

Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)-Karma (3), Mr. Victory (5), Hard To Find (7), Sutter's Quest (1)

Race 6—Million Dollar (4), Batong Silyar (2)

Race 7—(Penta/QRt/Tri)- Native Land (9), Mamaya (3), Leave No Doubt (7), Fairy Queen (1), Floral Arch/Spectacular Play (10)

Race 8—(Quartet/Tri)- War Hero (5), Brittney's Magic (4), Cool Operator (6), Power Of The Wind (1)

Race 9—(Qrt/Tri)-Special Edition (2), Golden Connection (4), Tigres IN Action (5), Sutter's Royal (1)

Race 10—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)-Armidale (5), Iron Heart (8), Ruah (1), Alexis Magic (6), Crowning Glory (7)

Race 11—Dynamic Jason (6), Virgin Island (4), Refreshing (8), Take Ten (12), King Aljhun (9), Simply Strong (7)

Race 12—(Sutter's Wealth (1), Lighting Strike (4), Sweet Talk (2)

Race 13—(Super 6/QRt/Tri)-Valentine Girl (4), El Cid (6), Play It Again (5), Aim For Gold (2), Habagat (11), Jayvie's Godfather (8)

Reyes heads Team RP in Asian 9-Ball

CANADA-BASED ALEX "THE LION" PAGULAYAN joins Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante as spearheads of the country's bid in the 2006 San Miguel Beer Asian 9-Ball tour which kicks off May 5-7 at the Nguyen Du Sports Hall in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Marlon "Marvelous" Manalo, a semifinalist in last year's world pool championship, completes the explosive four-man RP squad in the annual competition which has attracted top Asian cue masters including reigning world champion and 16-year-old Wu Chia-ching of Chinese-Taipei.

Billiards patron Aristeo "Putch" Puyat said he is optimistic the Filipinos will perform well.

"Our players have good chances. But I expect the Taiwanese to give them a tough fight" said Puyat, organizer of the just-concluded Enerva Asian Ladies 9-Ball tour which back-to-back World Women's Champion Kim Ga-young of South Korea dominated.

Pagulayan (2004) and Reyes (1999) are former world champions with Bustamante placing second in the 2002 edition behind Earl Strickland of the United States. Manalo, who lost to eventual champion Wu in the semifinals, is competing in the Asian Tour for the first time.

Mandaluyong bet Manalo, on the other hand, the 2005 Filipino lone semifinalist survivor in the World Championship aims to give a good fight for the Filipino cue in the four cities stop of Asian 9-ball tour includes Bangkok, Kaohsiung and Jakarta leg.

With a total pot of $40,000, the event, organized by ESPN Star Sports, will go to Bangkok for the second leg on June 2-4. Kaohsiung for the third leg on Aug. 4-6 and Jakarta the fourth stop on Sept. 15-17. *Marlon Bernardino*

Platon-Garcia heads Tuason Cup winners

MAR PLATON AND HIS PARTNER MANUEL Garcia combined for a two-day aggregate of 138 to capture the overall title in the Don Celso Tuason Centennial Cup, the member-guest tournament of the Valley Golf and Country Club held recently.

Platon and Garcia accumulated 81 points at the championship south course and conspired for 57 at the executive course for a two-day total of 138 total which proved to be the highest among the record cast of 421 teams.

The other champions were Raoul Jorge and Benjamin Jacinto in Division I, Adelio Caragan and Julio Cada in Division II, Antonio Sy-Richard Ricarte in Division III, Luis Pastor Jr.-Carlo Pastor in Division IV and Raymond Santos-Ansang Lee in Division V. Arnold Duay and Zaldy Villa topped the sponsors' side.

Emerging as the big winners were member Gomer Pangan and Dennis Nicomedes who fired aces at the executive course. Gomer Pangan aced the 12th and won a Club Cart from Turf Co. worth more than P200,000 while Dennis Nicomedes scored a hole-in-one on the eighth and won an Armscor revolver plus P50,000 in cash from CICI Insurance.

Gracing the awarding ceremonies of the event commemorating the 100th birthday of Don Celson Tuason were Valley president Louie Reyes, Bolo Tuason and organizing committee head Joey Salindong.

MercedesTrophy tilt coming to RP

AFTER BEING STAGED IN EIGHT ASIAN countries the past 15 years, the MercedesTrophy golf tournament finally comes to the Philippines next month.

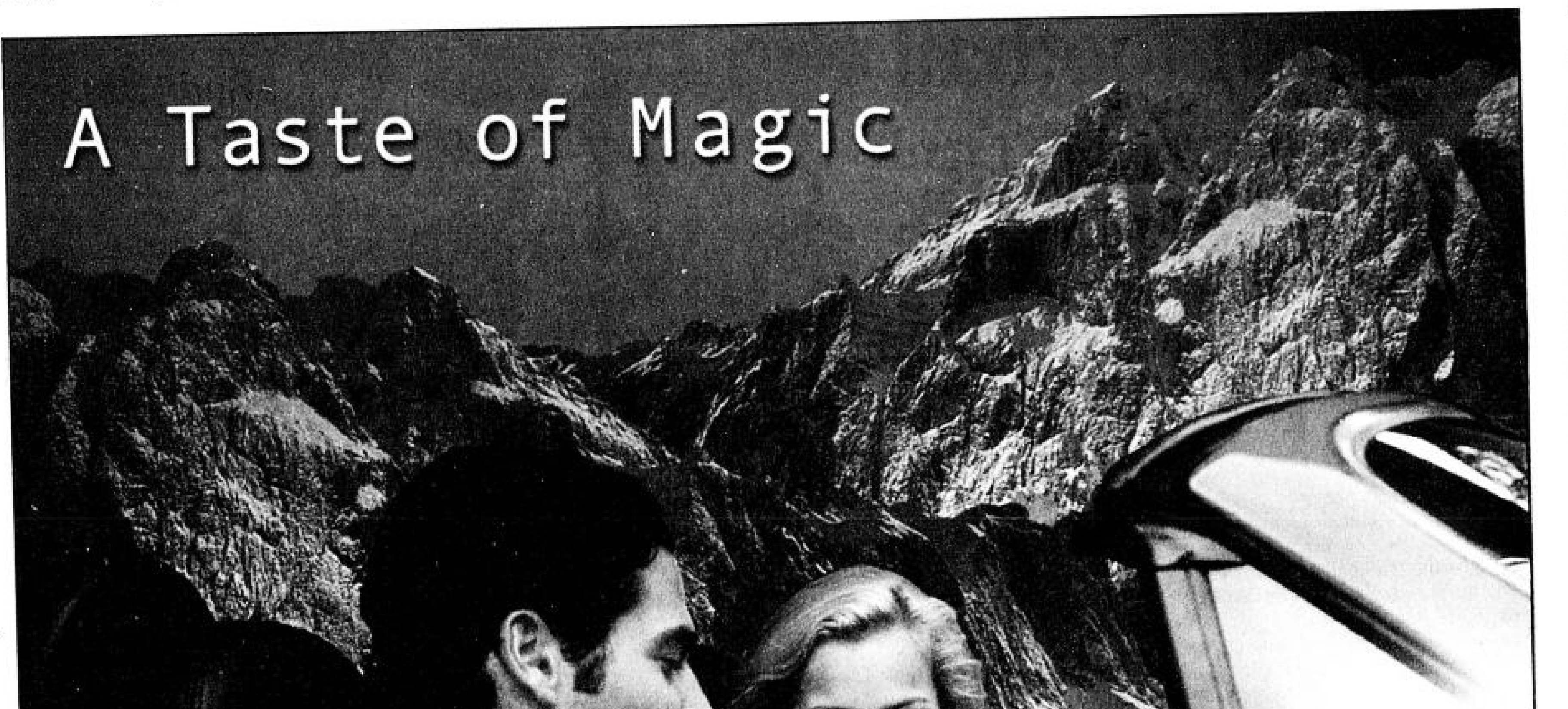
Mercedes-Benz's Philippine exclusive distributor Cats Motors Inc., with presenters Smart Infinity and Cathay Pacific Airways, will launch the 1st MercedesTrophy Philippines 2006-the national elimination round of the amateur golf tournament held worldwide since 1990.

Sta. Elena Golf Club's par-72, 6,491-yard Sierra Madre course will host more than a hundred Mercedes-Benz owners in the 18-hole event set May 15.

"It is with great pleasure and pride that we showcase, for the first time, this prestigious and elite MercedesTrophy Invitational," Cats Motors Inc. chair Gregorio T. Yu and president Felix R. Ang said yesterday. "We expect this to be a milestone in the history of Philippine golf for our friends who are passionate about their game and their cars."

Forest Hills Inv'l slated May 18-21

THE ANNUAL FH INVITATIONAL WILL BE HELD MAY 18-21 at the Forest Hills Golf and Club in Antipolo City with 120 two-man teams expected to participate. All par-3s of the Jack Nicklaus course will stake hole-in-one prizes ranging from a brand new Hyundai Tucson SUV, Nike and Wilson golf sets, and a Club Car "Precedent" golf cart. Attractive raffle prizes, including a Plasma TV, will be raffled off during the awarding ceremony. Registration ends May 7. For details, call She Piñero at 6671641 to 43.



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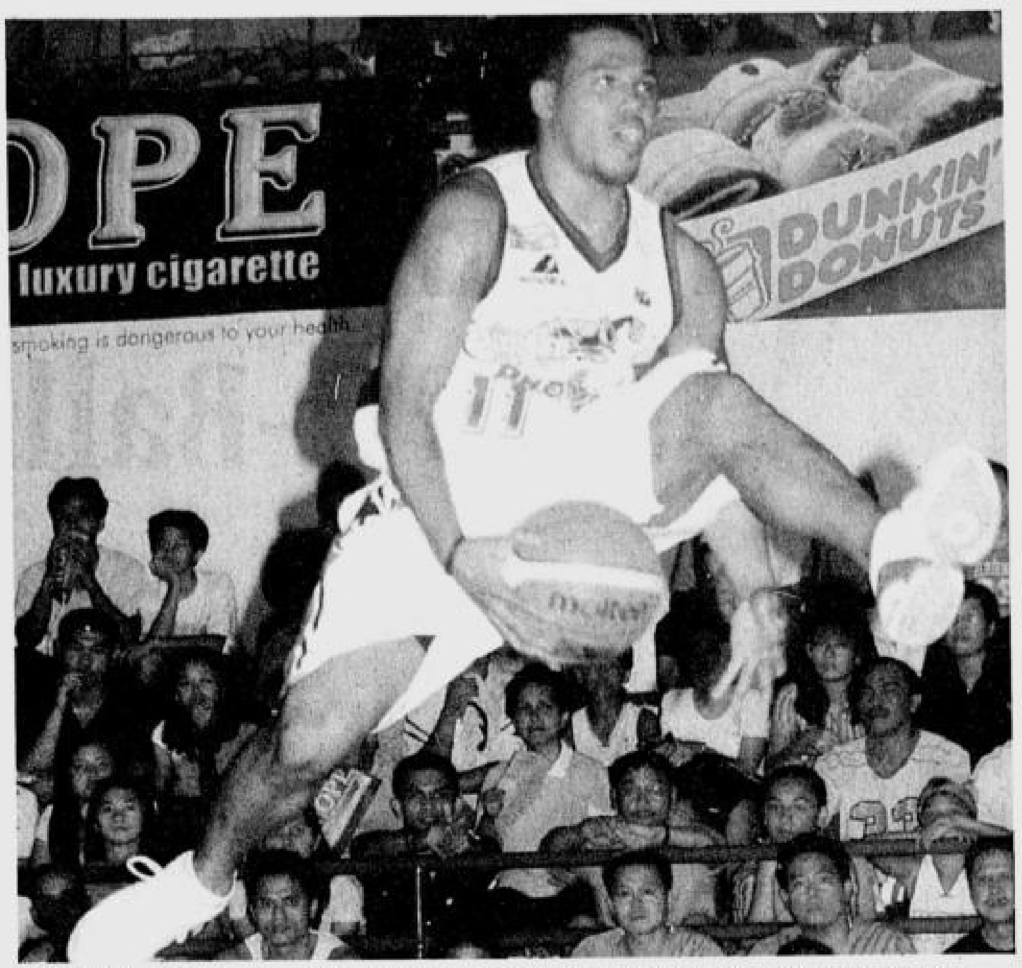


WILLY Miller steals the show in the trick shot and obstacle competition during the PBA All Star in Cagayan de Oro.
ERIK ARAZAS

NBA Legends preparing harder for RP Team

By Francis Ochoa

FOR SO LONG, COACH CHOT REYES' TEAM HAS been looking for a chance to show just how far it has grown.

REYES

"There's the irony there," said Reyes. "We have a team that's really ready and very much capable of representing the country. But we can't find any place to play in."

In some little, legend-coated way, Reyes' Pilipinas Basketball saw its prayers answered.

Tomorrow, the squad goes up against Dennis Rodman and the rest of the crew of the "Bad Boys" team, which is making sure it will put forward its best face against some of the top Filipino players in the country.

The two teams collide at 5:30 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum and despite the big, recognizable names dotting the US roster, Reyes has managed to see past the glitter and recognize where the threat to his team will come from.

"It's basically Rodman, who's in very good game shape, and the five players from the NBA Developmental League (NBDL)," Reyes said.

The NBDL standouts includes Olu Famutini, who dropped different dunks on the way to a 33-point effort against San Miguel's touring all-star squad composed of retired professional basketball stars. Then there's Myron Allen, who scattered 25 and Chad Wilkerson, who chipped in with 18.

"They can shoot, run the floor and dominate inside. And if push comes to shove, they have the veterans to provide the experience if the game calls for it."

The veterans include Otis Birdsong, Sidney Moncrief, Darryl Dawkins and Hall-of-Famers Alex English and Calvin Murphy, who have been buried in practice in anticipation of a tough match against Pilipinas Basketball.

Cebu fans witnessed Rodman and company crush the San Miguel team, 124-94.

"The fans there had a magnificent time," said Mario Whitmire, president of the organizing West End Sports.

And Reyes believes it's time for fans to see what his team can do.

"Basically, we want to reinforce the idea that our program is still on track despite the obstacles and adversities coming our way," Reyes said.

Former MVPs Asi Taulava and Willie Miller, Alaska's Nic Belasco and Mike Cortez, Air21's Ren-Ren Ritualo, Talk 'N Text's Jimmy Alapag and Magnolia ace Kelly Williams lead the team.

Game is at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are still available through TicketNet at 911-5555.

Pagadian thwarts Laguna-Sta. Rosa

TAGUIG CITY—MAYOR SAMMY Co's visiting Pagadian Explorers struck hard in the second half to turn back the winless Laguna-Sta. Rosa Pistons, 79-68, and improve their record to 3-2 Friday night in the 2006 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketball championship at the C.P. Tinga gym here.

Adrian Daja sparked the Explorers' comeback from a 36-39 halftime deficit, finishing with 19 points, 15 rebounds, four steals and three blocks to emerge as the game's best player.

The loss was the sixth straight for the Pistons of Laguna Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro and Sta. Rosa Mayor Joey Katindig.

With Kim Proceso and Jason Alminario hitting their strides, the Pistons dominated the first 20 minutes.

But Daja, ex-pros Bong Marata and Peter Naron and PBL veteran Lou Gatumbato joined hands to push the Explorers ahead for good, 60-53, going into the final period.

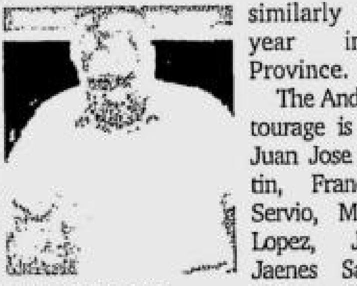
The scores:

PAGADIAN 79—Daja 19, Marata 15, Naron 11, Gatumbato 10, Quilo 10, Flores 8, Cortez 2, Salud 2, Ayuk 2

LAGUNA 68—Proceso 14, Alminario 10, Prior 8, Mamangon 7, Somingo 6, Nolasco 6, Natividad 5, Sy 4, Nuqui 4, Aguino 2, Intano 2

Quarters: 20-21, 36-39, 60-53, 79-68

Spanish football experts holding coaching course



ROMUALDEZ

LOCAL FOOTBALL coaches will again benefit when Spanish trainers conduct the PFF-Andalucia FA Youth Coaching Course from May 22 to June 1 in Metro Manila.

Philippine Football Federation president Johnny Romualdez announced recently that Spain's Andalucia Football Association and the Philippine Football Federation are working hand in hand with the Office of Sen. Edgardo Angara to guarantee the success of the project.

This will be the second time that the three groups have coordinated to bring Spanish coaching expertise into the framework of local football. A successful Spanish coaching course was similarly staged last year in Aurora Province.

The Andalucia FA entourage is made up of Juan Jose Guerra Martin, Francisco Lopez Servio, Manuel Lopez Lopez, Jose Carlos Jaenes Sanchez, Luis Fradua Oriondo and Maria de Nova Pozuelo.

Topics for the coaching course are methodology and psychology, physical training, technique, sport organization and rules of the game, tactics and direction of equipment.

Fifty youth development coaches from provincial football associations of the PFF have been given slots as part of the PFF's initiative to upgrade the standard of its provincial centers of football excellence.

RYON in action

Girls Nat'l football tourney ready for San Carlos kickoff

JESSICA RYON, THE PROLIFIC 16-year-old striker of Southville International School in Las Pinas City will be one of the most guarded and watched girls in the 1st PFF National Women's Under-17 Championship that will be held from May 8-13 in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental.

The two-footed number 7 player, also a member of the U-Ha girl's football club, is playing with the Muntinlupa-Paranaque-Las Pinas (MPL) selection appearing for the first time in a Philippine Football Federation tournament. Tasha from Woodrose School, April of Miriam College and Becca of De La Salle Zobel are three other players expected to contribute to MPL's campaign. They are currently honing their skills in a Visayas-touring football camp.

PFF's Pablito Araneta, tournament commissioner of the women's under-17, said that the 12 provinces entered in the event where divided into three groups.

The inaugural games pit Cebu against Masbate and Davao against Bukidnon in Group A. Iloilo faces Iligan while South Cotabato takes on Negros Oriental in Group B. Cagayan de Oro meets Rizal and in the match of the day, home team Negros Ocidental tests the nerves of the Muntinlupa-Paranaque-Las Pinas selection.

The event is an undertaking of the San Carlos City Football Club, the Negros Occidental Football Association and the Office of the Mayor of the City of San Carlos. It is backed by PFF sponsor-partners Red Ribbon Bakeshop, 2Go and Petron.

Ramrod FC, Juventud win opening matches

RAMROD FC AND JUVENTUD lead the opening day winners last weekend in the First MPLFA-AAVA Premier League football championship at the Cuenca field at Ayala Alabang Muntinlupa City.

Anchored by Paco Fernandez, son of former PBA superstar Ramon Fernandez, Ramrod shut out Tahanan, 4-0, while Juventud, starrring former national player and coach Rodolfo Alicante, crushed San Beda Alabang, 8-0, in the event co-sponsored by Ford and Siemens.

Philippine Football Federation president Johnny Romualdez, national men's and women's team manager Ernest Nierras, Guy Romualdez, Ayala Alabang Village manager, and Cathy Rivilla, president of the organizing Muntinlua Paranaque Las Pinas Football Association, graced the opening of the tournament aimed at renewing football activity in the area.

Housewife, mechanic join PTCC opener

A HOUSEWIFE, A MECHANIC AND a lubricant agent are among the stellar cast of 32 drivers vying for the titles at stake when the San Mig Coffee–Petron Blaze Cup of the Philippine Touring Car Championship 2006 unfolds May 7 at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Menchie Francisco is a mother of three who's so prim and proper that it's shocking to see her transform into a racing maniac once she's behind the wheel of her race car. Her passion for speed and fast cars was influenced by her husband, top caliber driver Kookie Ramirez.

Pacho Blanco was a quality tuner of Autosports for years but the racing itch caught up with him and he started competitive racing last year. The decision proved worthwhile as he bagged the Ford Lynx Cup.

Tok Corpuz is a lubricant salesman who's not really that well off to support his passion for racing. But his dream to become a race car driver came to fruition last year with the help of Autotrixx.

These are just three of the interesting personalities introduced during the media launch of the 2006 PTCC season Friday night at the Gerry's Grill and Promenade Parking Area in Greenhills. They will be vying for the crown in the Group 3 division of this event sponsored by San Miguel Corp,, Petron, TNT, Gerry's Grill, Rota, Bendix, Starbright Bodykits, SIR, Gadgets, KTC Tools, Rayban, The Philippine Star, 97.9 Home Radio, 92.3 Joey FM, 99.5 RT, and autoindustriya.com.

The 17-man field in the Group 3 division includes top favorites Uly Maninding of Explorer, last year's third placer and opthalmologist Peewee Mendiola of Big Chill Racing along with teammate Arpee Manhit, Bosch's image model Jeff Borja and lady drivers Lory Uy of Velocity Motors and Erika Morales of Shift Racing.

This year also marks the debut of karting champion and image model Matteo Guidicelli who's expected to be a big crowd drawer of the event as he tests his driving skills for the first time in touring cars.

Also in the Group 3 division is Jon Mark Ong who emerged as the 2005 Novice Driver of the Year. Unfortunately, Ong may miss the first two legs as his new Honda car is still being prepared for the competition.

But the main focus of the six-leg series duly sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP) is the Group 1 division where eight-time champion Jody Cosceteng of San Miguel-Erg Alcotonic will face tough competition not only against rivals Kookie and Louie Ramirez of Petron-SRA but also against Renan Morales of Shift Racing who moved up to Group 1 after clinching the overall Group 3 plum last season.

SPORTSWATCH

Asingan bikefest rolls off April 30

THE ANNUAL ASINGAN, PANGASINAN, BIKEFEST WILL BE HELD TODAY. IT WILL cover a distance of 178 km traversing all the 6th District towns of Pangasinan. Dubbed the 13th Engineer Fidel D. Ginez Cycling Classic, it will have 150 participants, including the touted Pagcor team led by 1996 Marlboro Tour titlist Victor Espiritu, Lloyd Reynante, defending champion Albert Primero and the Pintaki Boyz of Jazy Garcia. A total cash prize of P86,000 plus trophies and medals will be at stake with the champion getting P12,000. All participants will be given T-shirts while all survivors will get P300.

North York sports program May 2

THE ANNUAL SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM OF THE NORTH YORK ALLIED INSTItute (NYAI) of Quezon City starts on May 2 at the NYAI Gymnasium on 51 Congressional Ave. Cor. Socorro Rd. Project 8, Quezon City. NYAI vice president and CEO Ramon N. Gemina Jr. said the event aims to provide youngsters well-rounded training and gainful way of spending their vacation. The month-long affair begins with a motorcade and grand acquaintance party to be attended by local government authorities, school officials and community leaders. Activities include sports clinics in basketball, volleyball and taekwondo. Aside from the summer youth program, enrollment for high school and pre-school is going on. For inquiries, call 927-6127 or 927-8094, Monday to Saturday.

Stockinger out to set mark in Batangas

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—FOLLOWING HIS STERLING PERFORMANCE IN Malaysia, Birel lead driver Marlon Stockinger hopes to stamp his mark as the 2006 Shell Helix-CALI Superkarting Series stages its second leg today at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas. In the absence of Michele Bumgarner and Matteo Guidicelli, Stockinger carried the fight for the Philippines and bagged the Rotax Max Seniors crown in the kickoff leg of the 2006 Asian Zone Karting Open Championship at the Shah Alam Circuit in Malaysia. Also bringing home honors for the country were Renz Pazcoguin, who captured the Mini ROK plum; John Alvarez of the Cebu Racing Group, who finished runner-up in the Junior ROK division; Paolo Gonzales, who ended fourth in the Mini Rok; and Franco Reyes, who placed third in the Cadet 85 class. Stockinger hopes to surpass his third place finish in the Carmona kickoff leg and put up a strong fight against first leg champion Matteo Guidicelli and Intelco's Daniel Cleak in the combined Formula 125 and Rotax Max Seniors race.

Fistorama, Golf Power today

FISTORAMA FEATURES THIS AFTERNOON EXCITING BOUTS BETWEEN DARYL Amilos and Kevin de la Cruz in the light flyweight division and the 10-round bout between Rey Martizano and Bernabe Concepcion in the superbantamweight division. These fights were recently held in Taguig City as part of Taguig's foundation week festivities. Fistorama is shown through ABS-CBN Global's The Filipino Channel/Pinoy Central TV and RPN-9. Golf Power Plus featuring the 8th Samsung Philippine International Junior Golf Championships airs at 3 p.m.

All Breed Dog Show at Eagle Ridge

FOREIGN JUDGES WILL BE ON HAND TO CHOOSE THE WINNERS IN TODAY'S Cavite Canine Club, Inc. All Breed Dog Show at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Residential Estate Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite. More than 150 canines brought in from Cavite, Baguio, Bicol and Pampanga and as far as Cebu and Iloilo are participating in the event starting at 9 a.m. at the basketball court inside the Family Sports Clubhouse of the 700-hectare Eagle Ridge. Admission is free and spectators will be able to see various breeds from Dobermans, Labradors, German Shepherds, Chihuahuas, Poodles and many more, according to Cavite Canine Club president Eduardo Sy. Sy said that three foreign judges who are all veterans of the best dog shows in the world - Robert Dawson, Rocio de Vega and Dr. Raymundo Lo – have planed in for the event. The Cavite Canine Club Dog Show is one of the highlights of the summer activities at Eagle Ridge, which boasts facilities for basketball, bowling, badminton, tennis, swimming, billiards aside from its championship courses.

Las Piñas holds cockfest today

A BIG Sunday crowd is expected at the fully air- conditioned Las Pinas Coliseum tonight when the special 3- cock derby gets going at 7 with 51 fights lined up. It will be an exciting showdown of invited cockers from Cavite, Batangas,Paranaque, Las Pinas, Paranaque and Pasay, said host Romy Bustamante who put up a cash prize of P300,000 for the winners. Call 873 -1040 and 874 -3910 for details. Meanwhile, LPC coliseum manager Alex Tobias said that regular hackfights are scheduled from Monday to Sunday. A bonus of P1,000 per win (first 20 winners only) will be given away. Likewise, aficionados may win gamefowls from Aguilar Farms in the raffle draw.

SJC 5-cocker submission of weights

OFFICIAL ENTRIES TO SAN JUAN COLISEUM'S UPCOMING 5- COCK DERBY must be submitted today from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. To be hosted by Bacolod breeder Arnold Mendoza, the derby kicks off tomorrow with a guaranteed prize of P500, 000 on the line. Also lined up is the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5- cock derby on May 3. The first ever SJC 9 – Cock International Derby will be staged on June 5, 7 and 9. All the participants will be designated as hosts and will receive half of derby proceeds. For details, call 725 – 5665 and 725 – 5369 and 0917 –8041691 (Ariel).

ROGIE Ferrer CUP: Organizers of the Rogie Ferrer Cup senior ladies' invitational golf tournament on May 24 at the Executive course of the Valley Golf & Country in Antipolo City met recently to discuss the event's format. From left: Donna Leveriza, Sonia Ongkiko, Noemi Cuenca, Nanette Sinco and Nellie Cruz. The event sponsored by Ferrer, the US-based former track and field star-turned golfer, will also serve as a reunion for WGAP members.

Lakers put Suns in a black hole

LA-Phoenix series puts MVP race in spotlight

LOS ANGELES—ARE WE SURE THIS MVP race is over?

Ballots for the Most Valuable Player award have been cast already, based on the NBA regular season. The winner won't be announced for a while, probably after the first round. Of course, that doesn't stop newshounds from sniffing around for results.

The word is that Steve Nash of the Phoenix Suns will be named MVP for the second season in a row, with Kobe Bryant of the Lakers somewhere in a group of runners-up with LeBron James, Dirk Nowitzki and Chauncey Billups.

The argument for Nash, the league's assists leader, over Bryant, its scoring leader, is that Nash does more of that making-his-team-better stuff that purists love.

But here's the thing: What if Bryant's team beats Nash's in the first round?

"Too late!" Phoenix coach Mike D'Antoni said.

"You always have a healthy discussion whether it's Kobe or Chauncey Billups or Steve or LeBron James—you can go right down the list," D'Antoni said. "Is Steve deserving? Oh, yeah. Is Kobe? Absolutely. I happen to like my guy."

Still, there's the official result, and there's the court of public opinion.

Suns vs. Lakers, Nash vs. Kobe, is being played for that jury.

It wouldn't be the first time, but it would be one of the more dramatic examples of the playoffs providing ammunition for the bitter complaints of fans of a losing Most Valuable Player candidate.

The last time an MVP was knocked out of the first round of the playoffs was in 1979. That was Moses Malone, then of the Houston Rockets, who were bounced by the Atlanta Hawks.

Since then, eight MVPs were knocked out of the playoffs in later rounds and three MVPs got a playoff comeuppance against a voting runner-up: Julius Erving, whose Philadelphia 76ers were beaten by Larry Bird's Boston Celtics (1981 conference finals); Bird, whose Celtics were beaten by Magic Johnson's Lakers (1985 Finals); and Karl Malone, whose Utah Jazz was beaten by Michael Jordan's Chicago Bulls (1997 NBA Finals).

Also, there were Charles Barkley's Suns losing to Jordan's Bulls (1993), David Robinson's San Antonio Spurs losing to Hakeem Olajuwon's Rockets (1995), Allen Iverson's 76ers losing to Shaq's Lakers (2001), and Tim Duncan's Spurs losing to Shaq's and Kobe's Lakers (2002).

Oh, and there was Nash's Suns falling to Duncan's Spurs in last season's West finals.

What this could become, if the Lakers knocked off the Suns, is the first time in a long time that the MVP found himself discredited before his MVPship is announced.

This series is two Most Valuable Players doing their best to win, and so far, Kobe is winning. The ballots may be in, but history's verdict is on the line. *New York Times News Service*

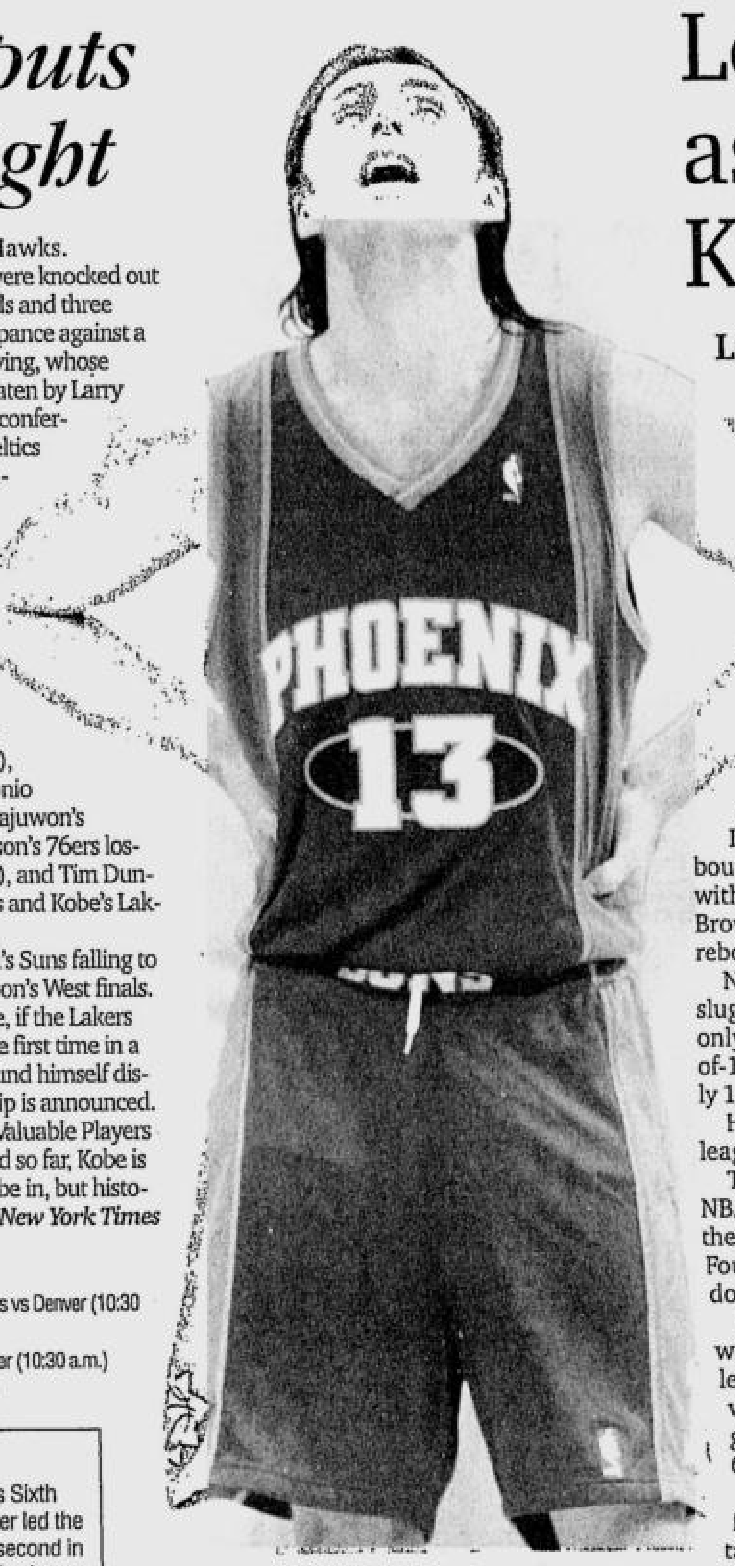
NBA on TV:

SOLAR SPORTS—LA Clippers vs Denver (10:30 a.m. live, replay at 7 p.m.)

RPN-9—LA Clippers vs Denver (10:30 a.m.)
Detroit vs Milwaukee (9 p.m.)

Grizzlies' Miller wins Sixth Man Award

MEMPHIS, Tennessee—Memphis Grizzlies guard Mike Miller won the NBA's Sixth Man Award on Friday after making the transition from starter to reserve. Miller led the NBA in scoring off the bench this season, averaging 13.7 points. He ranked second in scoring for the Grizzlies and was second in rebounding with a 5.4 average. He also tied for third in assists. Miller started last year and had no problem playing a backup role as the team adjusted to roster changes. Miller, in his sixth season with the NBA and rookie of the year in 2001, is happy with his new assignment. *AP*



READ 'EM AND WEEP: A steady performance by the Los Angeles Lakers at Staples Center leaves Steve Nash and the Phoenix Suns looking elsewhere for answers. AP

LeBron unstoppable as Cavs trip Wizards; Kings edge Spurs

LOS ANGELES—BALANCED SCORING FROM ALL five starters and an off-night for Phoenix Suns' guard Steve Nash gave the Los Angeles Lakers a 99-92 victory on Friday and a 2-1 lead in their first-round NBA playoff series.

All five Lakers starters had at least 13 points, led by guard Smush Parker's 18. Luke Walton had 17 points and 10 rebounds and the NBA's leading scorer Kobe Bryant had 17 points and seven assists.

Lamar Odom pulled down 17 rebounds and blocked three shots along with his 15 points. Center Kwame Brown also blocked three shots, had 11 rebounds and scored 13 points.

Nash ended with 17 points, but was sluggish in the first half when he had only three points. He ended the game 7-of-16 in field goal shooting, but was only 1-of-7 in the first half.

He finished with 11 assists, at his league-leading average per game.

The Lakers, a seventh seed in the NBA's Western Conference, will host the Suns, the second seed, in Game Four on Sunday at the Staples Center in downtown Los Angeles.

Bryant led the league in scoring with 35.4 points per game and scored less than half that on Friday. Walton, with 9-of-19 shooting, had more field goal attempts than Bryant, who was 6-of-18 from the floor.

Lakers Coach Phil Jackson said before the series is over Bryant may take over offensively.

"Right now I think he is moving the ball and doing the right thing for us, getting everyone involved in the offense—the interior passing was really good tonight," said Jackson.

Bryant, who scored 81 points in a game in January, said he's happy with the team play and balanced scoring.

"We are just playing so well together," he said. "We are reading the defense. We're executing, moving the ball and spacing (defenses) out and that is what basketball is all about. It is fun to be a part of."

In Sacramento, Kevin Martin tipped in the winning basket just as time expired, giving the Sacramento Kings a thrilling 94-93 win over the San Antonio Spurs.

In the other game, LeBron James scored 41 points as the Cleveland Cavaliers defeated the Washington Wizards, 97-96, to assume control of their series.

Martin pulled the Kings to their unlikely victory over the defending NBA champions from a fast break lay-up over Tim Duncan that sank just as the final buzzer sounded in the Western Conference showdown.

The dramatic basket came after Manu Ginobili lost the ball on a drive with less than seven seconds left.

Mike Bibby then quickly passed the ball to Martin, who helped the Kings cut their series deficit to 2-1, after Sacramento lost in overtime in Game Two.

"I just threw it up and hoped it went in," Martin told reporters.

After the victory in Washington, the Cavaliers lead the best-of-seven Eastern Conference quarterfinal 2-1 and have regained homecourt advantage after James sank the winning basket with 5.7 seconds remaining. *Reuters*

Maddux still perfect; Pujols ties MLB record

CHICAGO—A 40-YEAR-OLD GREG MADDUX won his fifth straight start to be 5-0 starting the season for the first time in his distinguished career as the Chicago Cubs beat the Milwaukee Brewers, 6-2, on Friday.

Twice facing bases-loaded jams, Maddux escaped to earn his 323rd victory, one win shy of tying Nolan Ryan and Don Sutton for 13th place all-time in Major League Baseball.

He gave up eight hits and two runs in six innings and was backed by a homer and a strong defensive play from shortstop Ronny Cedeno.

Jacque Jones also homered for the Cubs.

Maddux is 13-3 against the Brewers, representing his best winning percentage against any National League team.

Dave Bush (2-2) lasted six innings, giving up 10 hits and five runs.

In St. Louis, Albert Pujols tied the major league record with his 13th home run in April, but Nick Johnson and Ryan Zimmerman homered in the first inning to lead Washington past St. Louis, 8-3, for the win.

Pujols' drive in the eighth inning came off a 2-0 pitch from Felix Rodriguez and matched the mark shared by Ken Griffey Jr. in 1997 with Seattle and Luis Gonzalez in 2001 with Arizona. It was Pujols' first homer in four games and left him with two games this month to break the record.

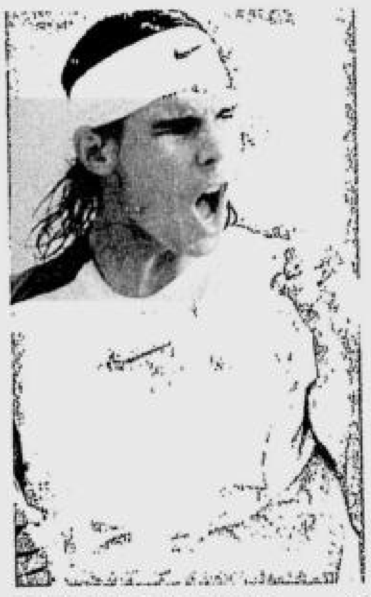
Tony Armas (2-2) worked six solid innings for Washington, which ended a five-game losing streak.

Jason Marquis (3-2) allowed seven runs and eight hits in five innings for the Cardinals.

In San Francisco, Barry Bonds hit a bases-clearing double to tie Babe Ruth for third on the career list with 1,356 extra-base hits and also singled in a run for his fourth RBI as San Francisco trounced Arizona, 10-2.

Jason Schmidt (1-2) struck out nine in seven strong innings on the way to his first victory of the season and Moises Alou hit a three-run homer and drove in four runs. Pedro Feliz and Randy Winn also drove in runs and Omar Vizquel had three hits and scored twice for the Giants, who snapped Arizona's three-game winning streak.

Bonds, who needs four home runs to pass Ruth's 714 for second on the career list, came to the plate with the bases loaded and two outs in the third, forcing Miguel Batista (2-1) to pitch to him. *AP*



NADAL: Chasing record AFP

Nadal reaches Open Seat semis

BARCELONA, SPAIN—TOP SEED RAFAEL Nadal beat Jarkko Nieminen of Finland, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, to move into the semifinals at the Open Seat Godo on Friday and win his 45th straight match on clay.

Guillermo Vilas holds the Open era record on clay with 53 consecutive wins in 1977, while 11-time Grand Slam champion Bjorn Borg is second with 46 straight wins in 1979.

"I didn't want to lose this match for anything in the world," Nadal said. "I think I was playing the ball at my best.

"Borg's total motivates me. It thrills me to think it's there, but we'll have to see what happens."

Nieminen began well, varying the pace of his shots and choosing his angles to break the flow of the 19-year-old defending champion. But after dropping the first set, Nadal broke the Finn twice in each of the next two sets.

On Saturday, Nadal will meet Spanish countryman Nicolas Almagro, who swept past 2001 champion Juan Carlos Ferrero, 6-3, 6-3.

Almagro has won nine straight matches, including his debut title in Valencia two weeks ago. He's beaten three seeds in Barcelona and hasn't dropped a set. But Almagro lost his only match with Nadal two years ago in Palermo.

"I'll be playing one of the best claycourt players in the world," Almagro said.

"With Almagro, boy, that'll be a tough match," Nadal said. "He's playing at a very high level right now and he hits the ball hard.'

"Semifinals are always difficult, but I go into this one with plenty of confidence."

Tommy Robredo, the 2004 champ, had to beat two opponents to reach his semifinal against unseeded Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland.

The sixth-seeded Robredo defeated Spanish compatriot Fernando Verdasco, 6-3, 2-6, 6-2, in their rain-delayed, third-round match. He then topped fourth-seeded Radek Stepanek of the Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-2.

The 59th-ranked Wawrinka advanced by beating 2.09-meter (6-foot-10) Ivo Karlovic of Croatia, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, in two hours.

"When I play Karlovic it is very difficult," Wawrinka said. *AP*

FOR DYING MOM

Teenage golfer builds a lifetime of memories

REUNION—THE MAGIC WAS MISSING, but the memories will never fade. Not for a 13-year-old fulfilling a dream for her dying mother, showing great promise in the process and embracing the spotlight one more day.

Dakoda Down made fun of her mom for crying when she was happy, but the junior golfer from Palm Harbor could not help herself Friday when she completed her much-anticipated run at the Ginn Clubs & Resorts Open in her first LPGA Tour event.

Tears flowed after her 82. It was a score she dearly would love to have lowered, but it helped put into context how remarkable her first-round 74 was on the 6,531-course at Reunion Resort.

"It was everything I thought it would be and more," Dowd said of playing in the tournament. "I'm not happy to be done. I wanted to keep playing. But it was a great experience and I really just think that the reason for this was for my mom to watch me reach my dream."

Kelly Jo Dowd was there for all 36 holes, riding a cart around the course and stopping at tees and greens to get a glimpse of her daughter competing on the ultimate stage.

Fleeting hope

For a time Friday afternoon, Dakoda harbored fleeting thoughts of making the 36-hole cut, a feat that would have made her the youngest in LPGA history.

But a double bogey on the 12th hole all but quashed that dream. For a 13-year-old playing on a course that's 500 yards longer than she is accustomed to and competing against pros, well, reality had to set in at some point.

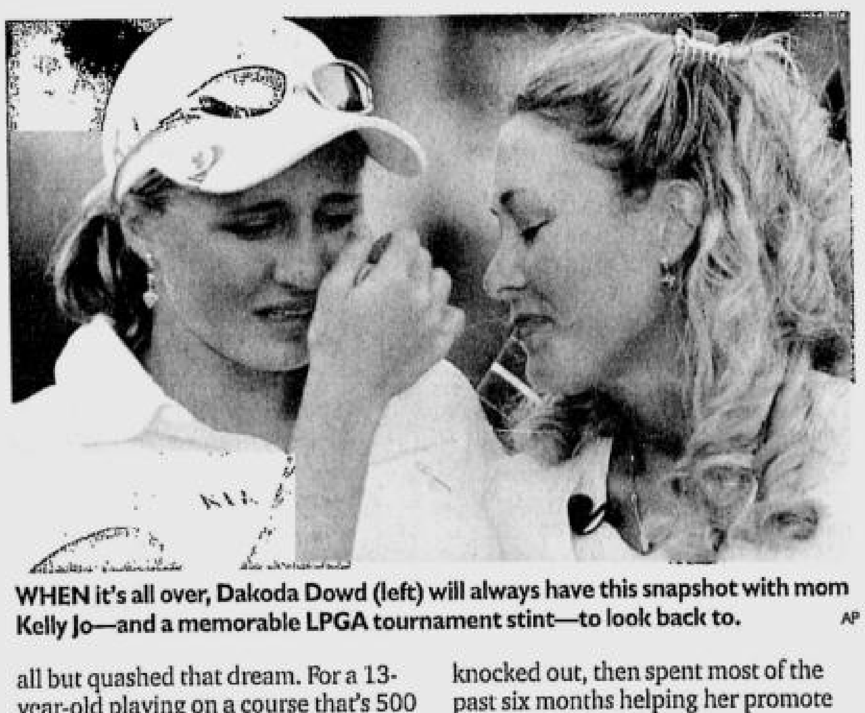
"She made mama's cut today," said Kelly Jo, whose desire to see her daughter play in an LPGA Tour event turned into a national story.

When the Ginn Company, which is sponsoring the first-year, $2.5-million event, heard about Kelly Jo's terminal cancer, it offered Dakoda a sponsor exemption, asked the LPGA Tour to add a player to the field so nobody would be knocked out, then spent most of the past six months helping her promote cancer awareness.

"I feel about as happy as I've ever felt in my life," Kelly Jo said at a greenside ceremony after the round, where she was presented with a replica of the trophy the winner will receive Sunday. "I thank the Lord for opening up this door for us. I thank all the people that have helped make a dream come true for me."

Dakoda missed the cut by eight shots, tied for 128th. She finished better than 10 players in the field. Although she failed to break 80 Friday, there were 20 other scores of 80 or higher.

And she showed remarkable poise under pressure, especially the first day when all eyes were on her.



WHEN it's all over, Dakoda Dowd (left) will always have this snapshot with mom Kelly Jo—and a memorable LPGA tournament stint—to look back to. AP

Glimpses

"I think you got a glimpse of her potential (Thursday)," said Matt Mitchell, her instructor and caddie. "And I think you got a glimpse of a normal 13-year-old (Friday).

"She was a little bit off. She got a little bit emotional, and how could she not in this situation? There was a lot going on."

The Dowds will stick around to watch the tournament, led by South Korea's Mi Hyun Kim (66-136), followed by Mexico's Lorena Ochoa (70-137) and Japan's Ai Miyazato (68-138).

And you get the feeling they'll be happy to relax.

"The whole process has been wonderful but draining," Dakoda's father, Mike Dowd, said.

"We're thrilled and happy to be able to have the opportunity to watch our girl do her thing and now kind of get out of the way. We created enough distractions for these women who are trying to earn a living. And it was awesome of them to let us interrupt what they do for a couple of days. We deeply appreciate that."

New York Times News Service

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Mayol flashes sharp form for May 6 WBC title fight

MAYOL hits the punching bag in Tokyo.

By Salven L. Lagumbay

UNDEFEATED RODEL MAYOL displayed a sharp, fiery form as he tapered off training for his May 6 WBC minimum weight title bout against champion Eagle Kyowa in Tokyo.

Mayol, WBC No. 1 minimumweight contender, impressed onlookers in his first 10-round sparring in Japan against newly crowned OPBF minimumweight champ Akira Yaegashi yesterday.

Mayol and Yaegashi sparred at the Dream Gym (Higashi Joju), located in the Oji area in Tokyo.

"Yes, I sparred ten rounds yesterday," said Mayol from his lair in Tokyo. "My conditioning is really great. A Filipino engineer, Lito Magbujos, came to the gym to show his support."

Mayol is set to do another 6-round sparring gym, while a press preview will be held on Monday when he spars before Japanese mediamen.

The press preview sparring will be Mayol's last, before he plunges into action against Kyowa. The durable reigning champion is a Thai who now resides in Japan.

Kyowa and Mayol are handled by Japanese managers.

UPHOLDING HONESTY, INTEGRITY, AND FAIR PLAY

THE LASALLIAN RESPONSE TO THE UAAP BOARD DECISION

De La Salle University (DLSU) received on April 24 the official copy of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) decision to suspend DLSU for a period of one year on the ground that the University was "negligent" in verifying the eligibility documents prior to or at the time of its submission to the UAAP. In rendering this decision, the UAAP Board in effect censures all the athletes of DLSU, from the juniors and seniors level, for an offense that arguably was out of honest omission and which was brought to the attention of the UAAP Board by the University itself.

This issue goes beyond the realm of interschool sports competition. It touches on our integrity as an educational institution and strikes at the heart of our cherished traditions. On what basis were we considered negligent? Was there due process in arriving at this decision? How grave was our offense, if any, to deserve a one-year suspension from all sporting events? The decision of the UAAP Board raises more questions than it provides answers.

We have not been negligent. It is perhaps unfortunate that DLSU was the only one that came out in the open. DLSU exercises standards higher than what is required by established procedures such as those contained in the Manual of Regulations for Private Schools and other government issuances. Prior to August 18, 2005, there was presumptive validity in the authenticity of documents. In the same manner that bank notes or other government-issued documents are taken for its face value unless otherwise proven by an authority with technical competence, DLSU did what any other school would perhaps have done. Moreso, and perhaps unknown to many, the lone security feature of the questioned document is a watermark that is detectable only by a special equipment. As early as July 2005, we attempted to raise the standards of record management by initiating a verification process that is not required at that time. In fact, we can dare say that DLSU was one among the very few schools which underwent this verification process prior to this incident. We were told that, in fact, there has been a significant increase in the number of schools requesting verification of PEPT documents after this came out publicly. The Department of Education (DepEd) letter of August 18, 2005 would not have materialized had it not been for an earlier proactive step that we took in our communication to the DepEd on August 2. Justice also demands that investigations of this nature take time because of the need to temper decisiveness with prudence. While it took DepEd less than two weeks to respond to our letter of August 18 identifying the first spurious document, it took the DepEd about eight weeks to finally determine the validity of the other spurious document. In the case of the UAAP board, it took them about half a year to release its decision on our case in response to our voluntary disclosure contained in our letter of October 6.

We acted in good faith. We went beyond what was required. We admitted the painful truth. But the Board ruled that we were negligent.

We were denied due process. With sincere faith in a fair judgment, we submitted to the UAAP all the relevant documents to prove that there was no complicity in the anomaly. Our officials have been called to appear before the UAAP Fact Finding Committee and they responded honestly to all the questions asked. They submitted all the evidences required, a number of which show that the University took deliberate action after uncovering the bogus documents. All these documents and responses have not been taken into account by the UAAP Board as their decision does not even refer to any of the documents and statements we have submitted or the inquiries they have conducted. The decision does not explicitly refer to any specific provision in the UAAP rules and regulations. The charges have not been identified and we have not been given the chance to refute those allegations or defend our position.

We submitted ourselves to the authority of the Board. We cooperated fully with their investigation. We waited for six months for their decision. But the Board remained vague and arbitrary.

We do not deserve suspension. There was no deliberate attempt on the part of the University to commit any offense or to connive with those at fault. We introduced significant changes in admission policies especially in the submission of hand-carried documents. We ordered the return of the 2004 Championship trophy. We requested for a leave of absence in men's basketball for Season 69 to institute internal reforms. We believe that the decision to suspend DLSU in all sporting events is excessively punitive, consigning the rest of our student athletes to an isolated state, depriving them in the medium term of a competitive inter-school league whose record has been established not by the current roster of board members but by the athletes themselves—past and present—and who have painstakingly prepared to bring glory to their alma mater, excel in the sport they play, and subsequently represent the nation in international competitions.

We forfeited the games we played the past two seasons. We requested a leave of absence from men's basketball for the forthcoming season. We addressed the gaps in our sports program. But the Board dismissed all these.

We deserve nothing less than a forthright clarification from the UAAP. We are more than willing to submit ourselves to the decision of a body that upholds justice, respects due process and values honesty and fairness. We have sent to the UAAP on April 27 a letter to seek clarification on these issues. We will deliberate on our options after we have received their response.

As an educational institution, we believe that this experience should allow us to implement the reforms necessary within and beyond our institution and mentor the young people entrusted to our care with the values of honesty, integrity and fair play. It is our sincere prayer that the UAAP member universities will share the same values that we stand for. This is not just about basketball. This is not just about sports. This is not even just about UAAP. And, definitely, this is not about winning at all costs. As difficult as this experience has been for the members and stakeholders of the University, we are certain that we have become stronger and our conviction to pursue truth, honesty and integrity will be much more resolute than ever.

> *Why be honest when it pays to be dishonest? Why fight for others when they won't fight for you?—or even for themselves? . . . The answer I think lies in what life means to you. If life means having a good time, money, fame, power, security—then you don't need principles; all you need are techniques. On the other hand, if happiness counts more than a good time, respect more than fame, right more than power and peace of soul more than security; if death doesn't end life but transforms it, then you must be true to yourself and to God and to love the truth, justice, and freedom that are God's other names...*
>
> *Jose "Pepe" Diokno*
> *Lasallian Alumnus*

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

GMA invited as Palaro '06 main guest

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS BEEN invited to be the keynote speaker when the 2006 Palarong Pambansa is held May 7-13 in Naga City.

ARROYO

Len Toledo, the Palaro national coordinator of the Department of Education, announced this the other day, adding that all systems are go for the annual sports meet which will mark its return to Bicolandia after only four years.

Toledo said the delegation from the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao was expected to arrive in Naga City yesterday.

All 17 sports in the calendar will be held at the newly renovated Metro Naga Sports Complex except for the elimination round of the basketball and lawn tennis events which will be played in Iriga City.

The 15 other sports on tap are archery, athletics, badminton, boxing, chess, football, gymnastics, sipa, sepak takraw, softball, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo and volleyball.

Arnis and dancesports will be held as demonstration sports.

Exhibition games in wheelchair basketball and wheelchair tennis and seminars in sports for the differently abled will also be held in preparation for their inclusion in the future Palaro stagings, according to Toledo.

Some 8,000 elementary and high school students are expected to take part in the Palaro which also invited Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Ramirez and Philippine Olympic Committee president Peping Cojuangco as guests of honor.

So suffers 2nd defeat in Dubai tilt

SO

FILIPINO FIDE master Wesley So suffered his second straight defeat in the 8th Dubai Open Friday, bowing to Indian journalist IM Vishal Sareen at the Dubai Chess and Culture Club in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

With his second straight loss, the 12-year-old So from Cavite remained with 3.5 points and dropped to a share of 41st place with three rounds to go.

So, who yielded after 55 moves of a Sicilain Defense Richter-Rauzer, will face GM Faruk Bistric of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the seventh round.

Despite So's loss, National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) president and Surigao del Sur representative Prospero "Butch" Pichay is still hoping So could gain an International Master result.

Second seed GM Darmen Sadvakasov of Kazakhstan took the solo lead with a masterful conquest of fellow super GM Evgenij Miroshnichenko of Ukraine after 48 moves of a Sicilian Defense to score 5.5 points.

Four players are tied for second spot with 5.0 points each after the sixth round. They are No.3 Gabriel Sargissian of Armenia, No. 6 GM Giorgi Kacheishvili of Georgia, No.8 GM Sergey Fedorchuk of Ukraine and No.11 GM Tigran Petrosian of Armenia.

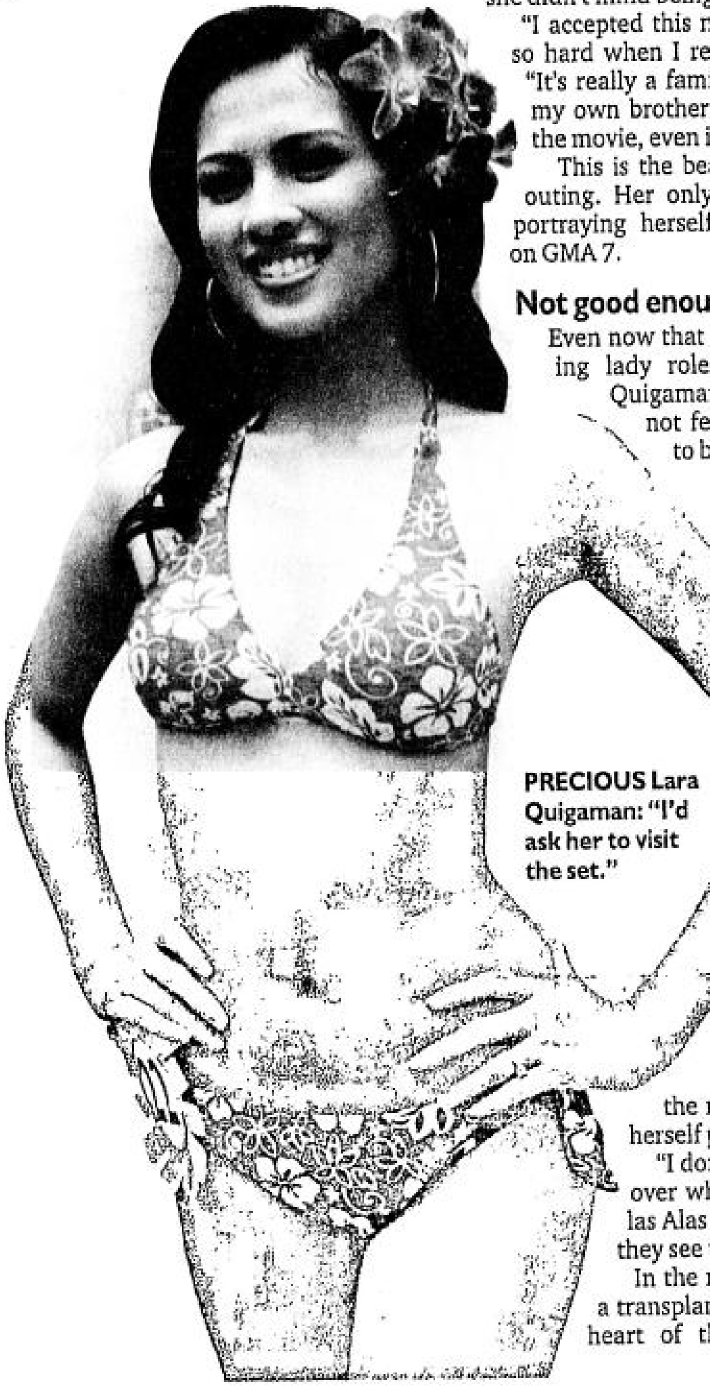
The event lured 20 GMs, 17 IMs and 40 other titled players in pursuit of prizes totaling $40,000. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

Beauty to Lani: Nothing to fear

By Nini Valera

PRECIOUS LARA QUIGAMAN, BONG Revilla's new screen partner, has assured the senator-actor's wife Lani Mercado that there is nothing to fear.

"I would ask [Lani] to come to the set," Miss International 2005 said, "so she would see that she need not worry. From what I know about show biz, the leading man is always linked to his [love interest] while the movie is being shot. This is nothing new."


PRECIOUS Lara Quigaman: "I'd ask her to visit the set."

Quigaman has taken the place of Gretchen Barretto, rumored to be a former girlfriend of Revilla's, for the role in Imus Productions' "Kapag Tumibok Ang Puso... Not Once, But Twice," directed by Wen Deramas.

The beauty queen plays Revilla's young wife. Her appearance is being billed under "special participation."

On her first shooting day with the senator, Quigaman told Inquirer Entertainment that she didn't mind being second choice.

"I accepted this movie because I laughed so hard when I read the script," she said. "It's really a family movie. I would bring my own brothers and sisters to watch it the movie, even if I'm not in it."

This is the beauty queen's first screen outing. Her only acting experience was portraying herself in "Magpakailanman," on GMA 7.

Not good enough

Even now that she has bagged the leading lady role in the Revilla starrer, Quigaman confided that she did not feel she was good enough to be an actress.

"I still need more workshops," she said. "That's why I'm feeling nervous."

Her leading man was quick to boost her confidence.

"In all fairness," he said, "she was good in that episode of 'Magpakailanman.' That's why we thought of asking her."

Real lead

Ai-Ai de las Alas is really the movie's star, the comedian herself pointed out.

"I don't see why they're fighting over who the leading lady is," De las Alas said, straight-faced. "Can't they see that I'm the one?"

In the movie, the comedian plays a transplant patient who receives the heart of the Quigaman's character,

BEAUTY/ A2-2

Was ABS-CBN eyeing 'Idol' co-prod deal with ABC 5?

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE RUMOR WAS RELAYED TO Inquirer Entertainment by a Kapamilya insider: ABS-CBN is eyeing a co-production deal with ABC 5 for "Philippine Idol."

Not true, said Maloli K. Espinosa, vice president for Government, Corporate Affairs and PR, in an official statement sent to Inquirer Entertainment: "No discussion ever took place between ABS-CBN and ABC 5 to produce '[Philippine] Idol.' "

Determined

Roberto V. Barreiro, ABC 5 managing director for News and Entertainment, recounted a slightly different story: "It's a format that any network would like to have. It wouldn't be surprising if ABS-CBN or any other network wanted to have it in their lineup. But, as we speak right now, we are determined to hold on to it."

Barreiro said, "FremantleMedia [the show's UK-based producer] talked to all the networks, as its agents routinely ask local networks if they are interested. But in the early days, networks thought they could just produce shows inspired by a foreign concept. Now, it has been proven that purchasing the production 'bible' increases chances of success."

This was confirmed by Espinosa: "While it is true that the producers of 'American Idol' first offered ABS-CBN the show during the time of former network president Freddie M. Garcia a few years ago, we declined since we already had an existing show, 'Star in a Million,' [with a] similar format."

But were feelers sent by ABS-CBN after ABC finally acquired the "Idol" franchise last February, following three years of negotiation?

Barreiro recalled, "There was some talk on how we could work together. But it wasn't formal. It was just mentioned in passing."

The question as raised, he said, was, "Is there a way to cooperate? But nothing firm came out of it."

According to the Kapamilya source, ABC will benefit from ABS-CBN's extensive network of provincial stations, particularly during the auditions (to be held in Manila, Cebu and Davao starting in May).

"It's really going to help," Barreiro admitted. "But we are also capable of generating hype because we have big media partners like Radio Mindanao Network (RMN) and Manila Broadcasting Company (MBC). RMN takes charge of Visayas and Mindanao; MBC, the whole of Luzon. SM Malls is our partner for the fast-track (audition and promotional) activities."

Barreiro said the response of their business partners had caught them by surprise.

"We've been getting calls every day from other entities that hope to work with us," he said. "Other corporations want to be identified with 'Idol' because it's wholesome and has a very good success record. It's a hit in over 30 countries."

Still, the question remains: Will Filipinos embrace "Idol," in spite of the glut of amateur singing contests on air?

Composer Ryan Cayabyab, the first RP "Idol" judge to be confirmed, was optimistic: "The time is right. The other shows have prepared the viewers for the local 'Idol.' "

Stand out

Barreiro agreed: "It will stand out. There are many local contests, but nothing compares to the [original]. I don't think the others are spending as much as we are. 'Idol' probably costs more than 'Encantadia' and other big-budget *fantaseryes*."

Pressed for figures, Barreiro said, "Mounting 'Idol' costs over P100 million."

Also, Barreiro noted that ABC's News and Current Affairs department will take an active part in documenting the "Idol" auditions.

"'Idol' producers have a unique story-

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He calls this one 'Underground Radio'

By Marinel R. Cruz

A NEW RADIO STATION "FOR younger listeners" and which "supports OPM genres other than rock and pop" is set to broadcast in June, according to Pinoy rock 'n' roll icon Ramon Jacinto, owner of the station.

UR Radio, or 105.9 FM—or Underground Radio, RJ says—will play a mixture of classic and new rock that listeners do not normally hear on other radio, said Jacinto, who is also president and chief executive officer of Rajah Broadcasting.

Rajah also runs RJ FM 100.3, where Jacinto hosts his own show.

Alternative

"While RJ FM is more mainstream, the new station will play alternative tunes," said Jacinto during a visit to the INQUIRER office in Makati City last week.

Jacinto cited as examples the works of music legends BB King, Led Zeppelin ("classic rock songs or those that have discernible, catchy melodies") and Eric Clapton ("those with the longest ad libs"), as well as original compositions of local artists in reggae, ska, blues and similar genres.

"There are many local artists who don't get played on radio. We want to encourage them to make more songs, at the same time attract more people to support them," said Jacinto.

Wouldn't UR compete with NU 107, which also targets the younger listening block?

UR will cater to listeners in the 16-40 age bracket. It will not fight with NU. It won't be as loud; it will be a level lower.

Since RJ FM caters to a specific type of listener, there are many songs that we

RAMON JACINTO: "I like perform artists. It's so refreshing just to be another FM station to introduce w to younger audiences.

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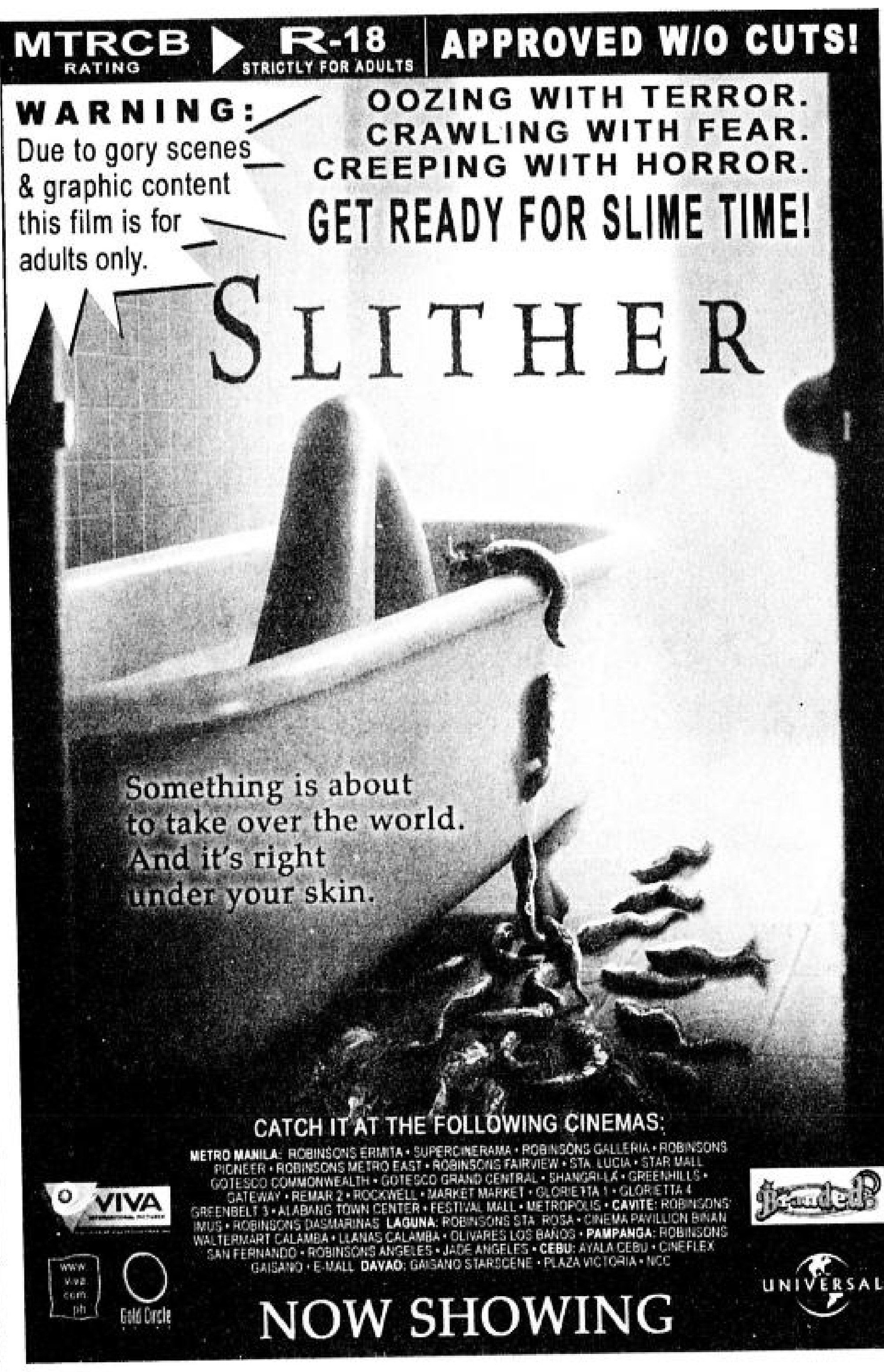

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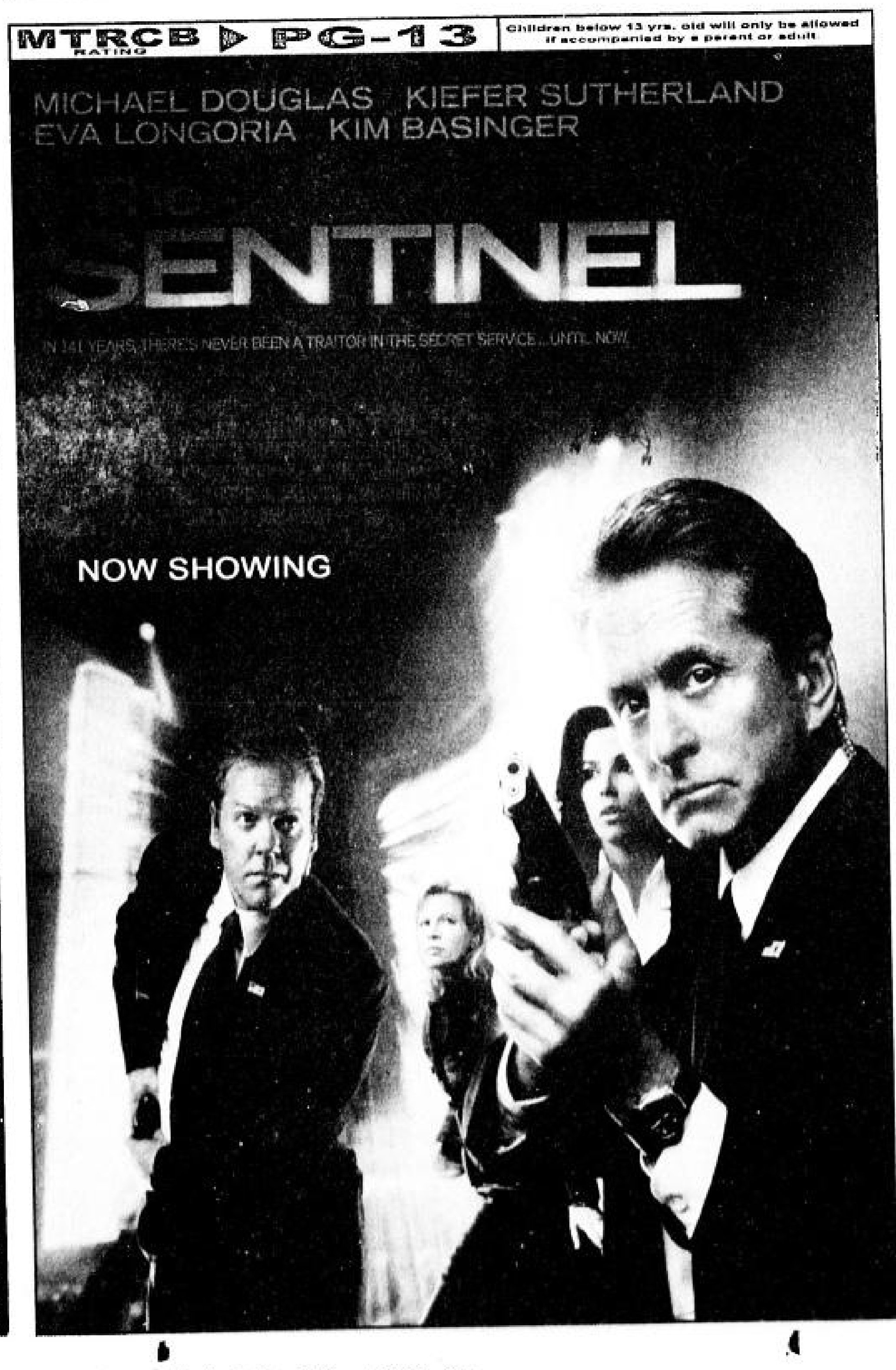

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SENTINEL

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Night of t

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

THE LATE 1990S' ONslaught of teen-oriented thrillers and slasher flicks were strictly either 1) sublime love children of seminal horror movies of the '70s and '80s, or 2) just abysmally braindead clones. The new remake "When a Stranger Calls" somehow fits in a strange place in between. It doesn't use blood and gore to shock, as most thrillers are wont to. It leaves the horrible stuff to the imagination but, alas, the story unfolds with very few surprises. Almost every object or element shown in focus foreshadows importance in later scenes and is easily recognized, although the bored-stiff pacing will help you forget that, wow, they actually planted those clues before.

Mystery

It's the stuff of old urban legends and crime dramas. A heavy-breathing phone caller repeatedly harasses high school girls in the middle of babysitting, a long psychological nightmare that might end up in the most tragic way possible. But for stalked babysitter Jill Johnson (Camilla Belle)—who has been introduced as the responsible, athletic type—oh, so we know that she won't go down without a fight. That's what thrillers are usually

Beauty to

From page A2-1

who dies half-way through the film.

"The twist," said Bong, "is that I will also fall in love with Ai-Ai."

12 kids

In a separate interview, Quigaman told INQUIRER, "I do want to have 12 children."

Her famous line from a TV commercial is that she wants to have 12 children. But, she said, she's not sure if she's capable, physically or financially.

She also said she got a lot of offers in show biz immediately after winning the international beauty title, and that she was sorry she couldn't accept all of them—or even just some of them. Quigaman explained: "It's hard because I can't commit."

As the reigning Miss International, she can't accept any long-term deals until September this year.

Even so, Quigaman has done

Was ABS-CB

telling style," Barreiro professed. "They have a way of getting good stories—they've mastered it. They use a lot of cameras. They know what to anticipate and when to get it. It's a lot like journalistic work."

It's all outlined in the "bible," the handbook that franchise holders are supposed to follow to the letter.

"When Fremantle people explained the concept, it was made

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‘There are many local recording artists who don’t get played on radio’

ing with talented young with them.” RJ is launching hat he calls “melodic rock”

EDWIN BACASMAS

can’t include in the station’s programming. They will conflict with the mellow pop tunes broadcast on RJ.

You’ve said in past interviews that it’s your wish to keep discovering new talents. Do you continue to do this?

I helped discover new talents before. I still do. In fact, I am having a series of shows with such new talents at the Captains Bar of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati City. On May 6, I will perform with Nyoy Volante. This will be the first in a series of shows, once a month, for six months.

For this series, we’ll also have a guitar night—me with young guitarists like Francis Reyes and Joey Puyat.

(Performing in the series with Jacinto are Christian Bautista, Nina, Jaya, Paolo Santos and Noel Cabangon.)

How did you ferret out these young artists?

I read about them in the papers, including your section. Some of them come to RJ FM to plug their albums. Like Christian Bautista, before he became [famous], he was one of my regular visitors. I like interacting with these young artists. It’s very refreshing just to be with them.

he beleaguered Belle

CAMILLA Belle

REVIEW

about: how the deadly serial scumbag is defeated by a quick-thinking young person that he mistakenly underestimates.

The identity of the villain is cloaked in mystery for most of the movie, and it seems for a while that it’s going for a whodunit angle. But, ooh, they go for ambiguity and choose not to reveal the real motivations of the caller-stalker. He’s very one-dimensional in that regard—the girl may as well have been put up against a wild animal or natural disaster. The stranger’s lack of personality, however, isn’t that important in the long run.

A gorgeous actress Belle is in almost every scene, practically making this a one-woman movie and an opportunity for her to play the besieged, beleaguered belle (ahem). The considerable screen time is able to show different, lingering sides to her character. Belle has been around for over a decade, starting as a child actress, and will no doubt snag more high-profile roles because of this decently played, if highly run-of-the-mill, character. Her unseen enemy is voiced by Lance Henriksen (of TV’s “Millennium”), aptly giving an uncomfortable, grating quality to the phone calls.

“When a Stranger Calls” ultimately doesn’t portray the young woman as a victim, but the dud ending kind of leaves the story open-ended. However, the movie is able to scare, and also to get the point across that one’s greatest weapon is the brain, to be used alongside strong legs and quick feet. Hooray for physical fitness!

Lani: Nothing to fear

BONG Revilla and Precious Lara Quigaman

that “Magpakailanman” episode and now, the Imus Productions movie—and she’s thankful for that taste of show biz.

As for the accompanying intrigues, she said: “I’ve already experienced a lot.”

She’s currently helping with the projects of Binibining Pilipinas Charities.

A future partner? She’s a long way from there, Quigaman said, but was sure she’d go for a non-show biz person. “I just know I can’t take it if he should do a kissing scene with another girl.” —With a report from Sheena Jade Barrion

N eyeing ‘Idol’ …

From page A2-1

clear to us that this is not just a plain talent show. It’s all about music and drama,” Barreiro said.

Jim Libiran, head of Production of News and Current Affairs, said that his department “supplied the network’s ‘Idol’ team with segment producers skilled at getting case studies quickly. Our goal is to look for a distinct Filipino voice in the stories.”

“To produce good television,” was how Dodge M. Dillague, creative director for News and Current Affairs, summed up his job. “‘Idol’ has three components—public affairs, variety and event. Our role is to come up with little documentaries from the auditions.”

Libiran concluded: “The network expects 20,000 people in the auditions.”

Needless to say, Libiran said, “ABC’s Events group has already made arrangements for security measures at those auditions.”

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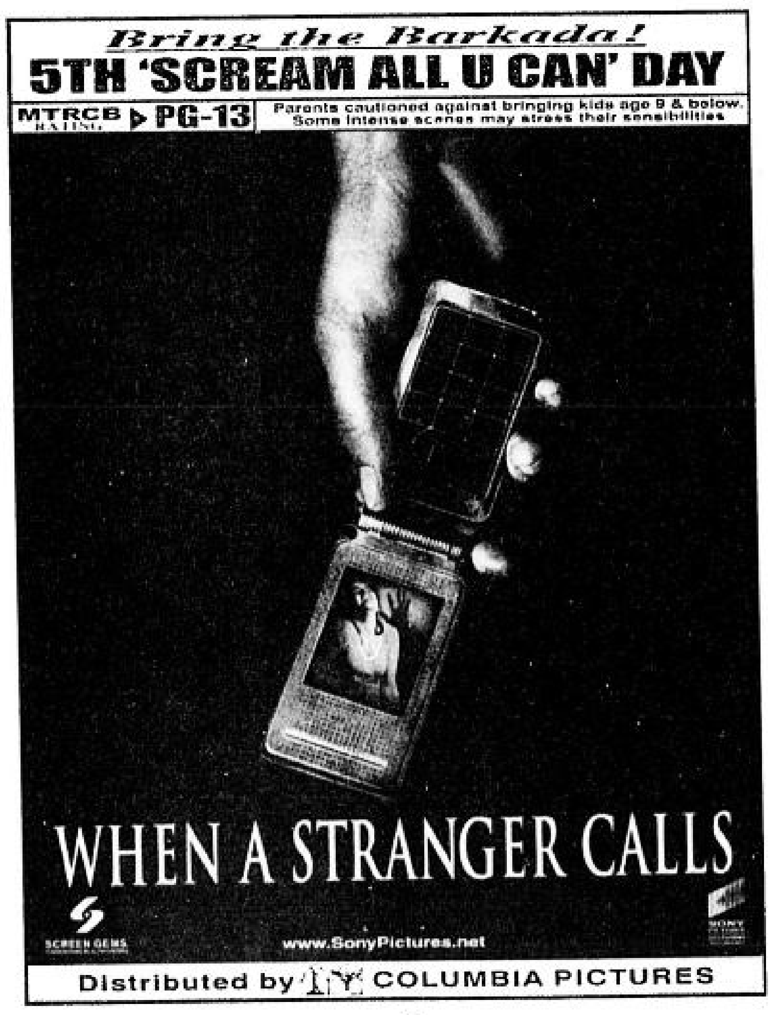

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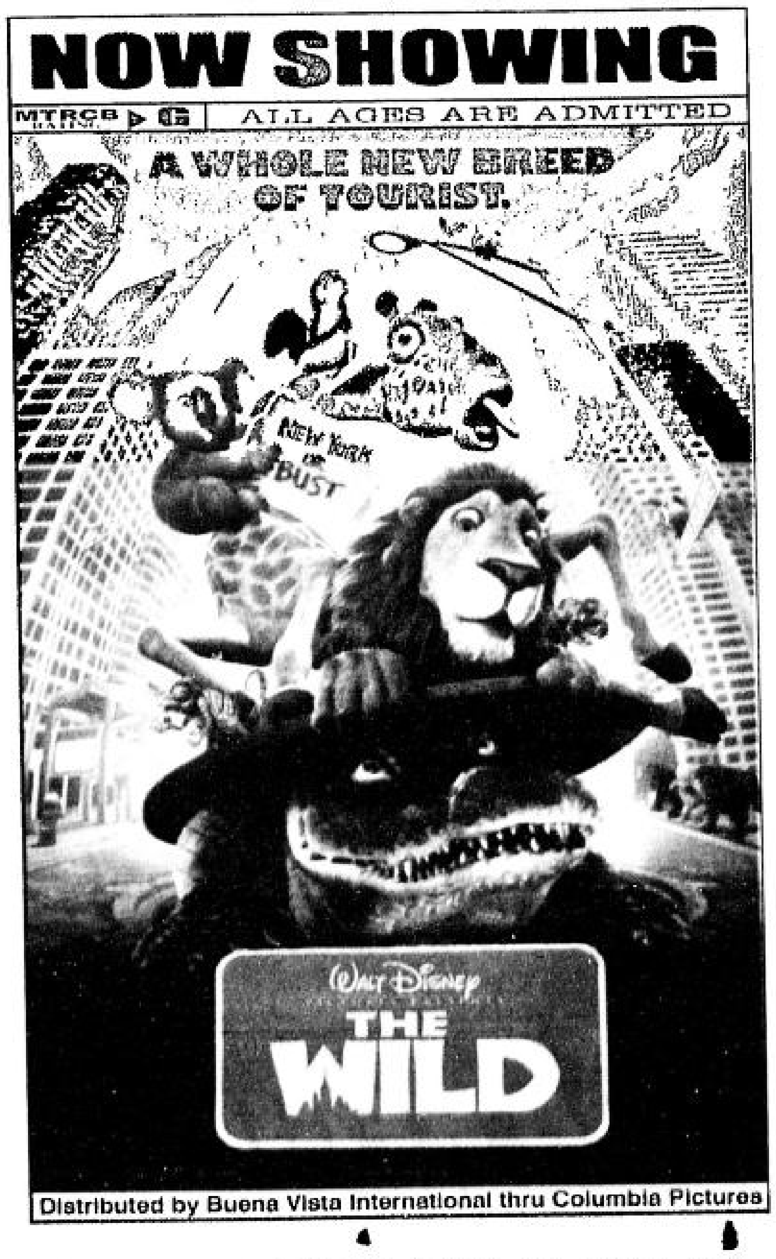

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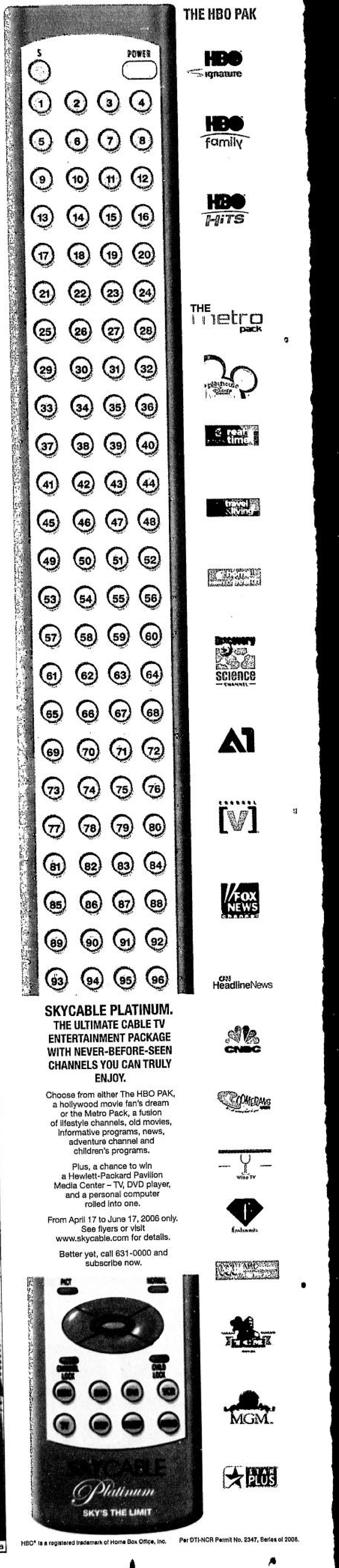

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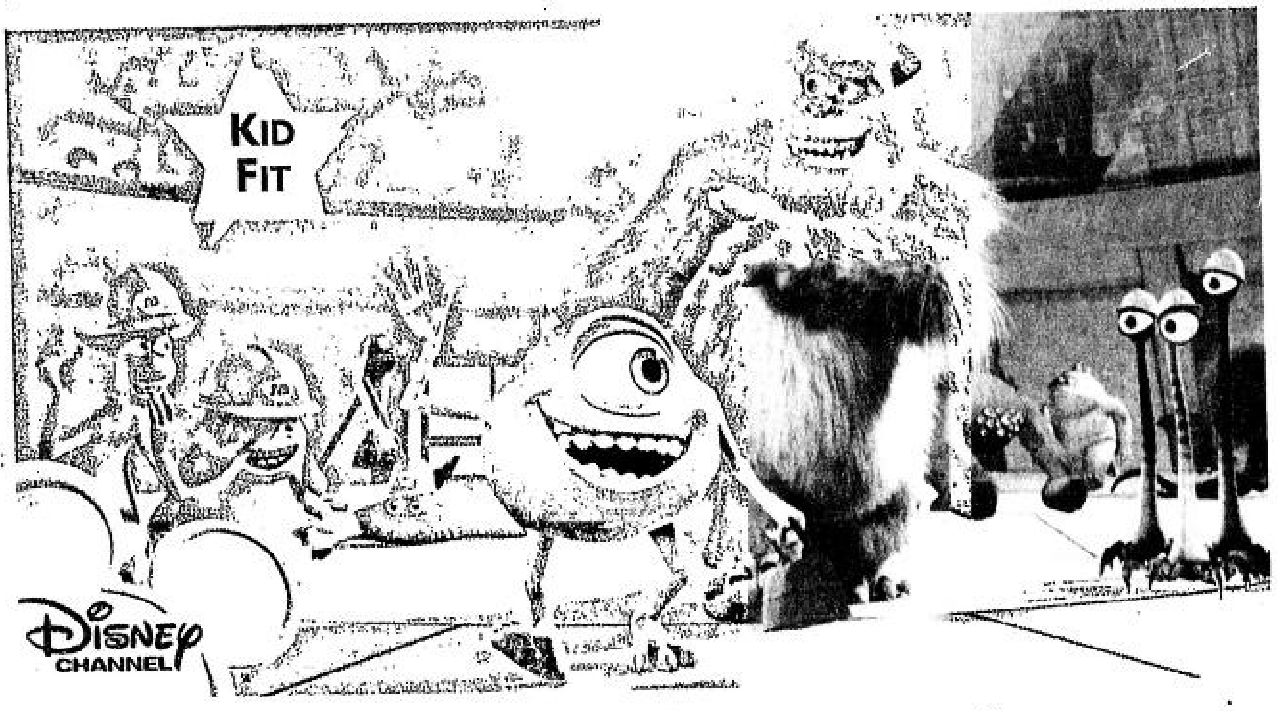

DISNEY CHANNEL

Treats for preschoolers—and moms

THE MONTH OF MAY USHERS IN more fun on Cartoon Network.

- "Tiny TV Mother's Day Month" airs May 1 to 6, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.
- "Oswald" premieres May 1 and airs weekdays, 10 p.m., in Tiny TV.
- "Firehouse Tales" starts May 1 and airs weekdays at 10:30 a.m. also in Tiny TV. All about Red, a fire truck in training.
- "Baby Looney Tunes" all new episodes starts May 1 and airs weekdays at 8:30 a.m.
- "Robotboy" premieres on May 6 and airs weekends, 8:30 a.m. The most powerful fighting robot wants to be a real boy.
- "Pet Alien" all new episodes starts May 20 and airs weekdays, 4 p.m.
- "AcceleRacers Grand Pix" features all four AcceleRacers, weekends starting May 6—Saturdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 11 a.m.
- "Energy Bomb" returns on May 27, weekends at 7 a.m. in Toonami.
- "Gundam Seed" returns May 27, double episodes on weekends at 10:30 p.m. in Toonami.

Disney Channel

Tomorrow is a big day at Disney Channel.

- "Get Active! Let's Party" airs at 9:30 a.m. Join the Active Kidz' Scott and Amy in a fun workout.
- "Cinderella" follows at 10:30 a.m.
- "Monsters, Inc."—remember the gang?—is on at 3 p.m.

Look who's singing?

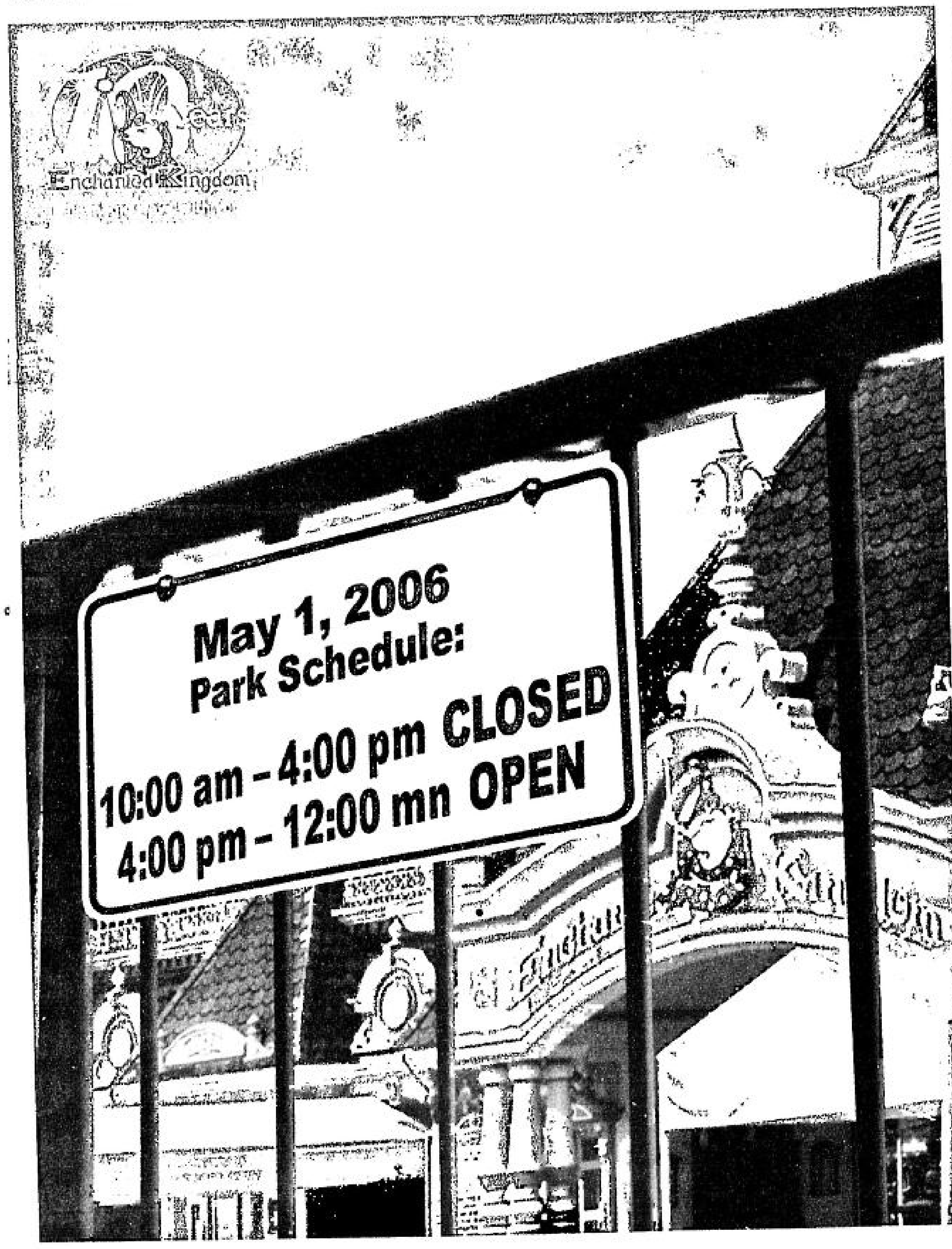
SPIN CITY

BJ "Tolits" Forbes

BJ "TOLITS" FORBES. HE COULD ENdorse a detergent soap and he could dance. But could he sing, too? Universal Records though so. "BJ Forbes Tolits Dance Hits," launched recently, is the result of this conviction. "Hey Oh Cappuccino" is the carrier single of the 12-track album. Check out some titles: "Umpapa," "Dubi Dam Dam," "Chirpy Chirpy Cheep Cheep," "La Poupée." Obviously, it's mostly fun stuff.

Same Same

The Moffatts' twins Clint and Bob, now known as "Same Same," have released their debut album titled "The Meaning of Happy," now available in leading stores. The duo is set to tour Asia, including the Philippines.



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Big changes for Miss RP Earth

Invitation expanded, jurors are all women

By Armin Adina

STEPHANIE Magali, 23

THERE WILL BE A LOT OF changes in this year's Miss Philippines-Earth pageant, said organizer Carousel Productions during the candidates' presentation in Manila on Wednesday.

For one, said Lorraine Schuck, Carousel executive vice president, the competition was opened to all girls abroad of Filipino descent. Which explains why Filipino communities in the United States, Australia, Canada, Japan and New Zealand are represented in the 2006 lineup.

Also joining representatives from Metro Manila and regions around the country is a delegate from the Calabarzon special economic zone. "She was selected by the environment department to promote the area," Schuck said.

Familiar faces

Another landmark innovation is the all-women panel of judges. Schuck said this year's jurors are "Filipino women who have made a global mark." They will select the country's representative to the Miss Earth pageant, which will be held in Santiago, Chile in November.

The 24 official candidates paraded in the regulation Champion swimwear at the Patio Victoria in Intramuros, Manila. Among the most popular was Ginger Conejero from the US. crowned Miss Fiesta Filipina-San Francisco in 2004, Conejero has a political science degree from the University of Southern California and plans to take up law next year. She took a leave from work in an Internet company in Los Angeles to prepare for the pageant.

Although her participation came too quickly, her' sponsors "took care of all the little things so I didn't have to worry about anything," said Conejero said, adding that she receives phone calls and text messages from Filipinos in California everyday just to make sure that everything is okay. "*Talagang napakasarap malaman na maraming sumusuporta*,"Conejero said in fluent Filipino.

APRIL Love Jordan, 18

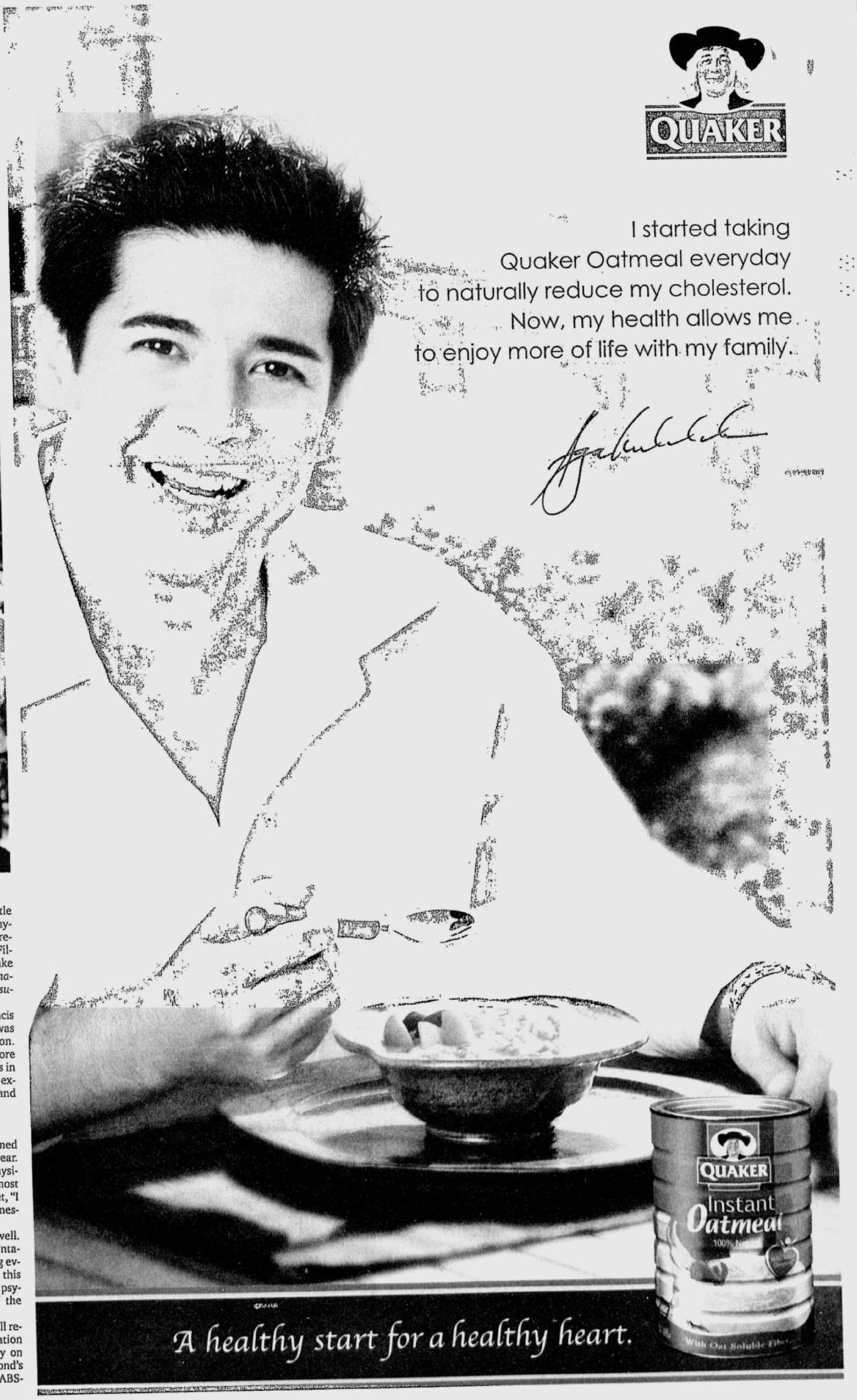
A familiar face was Central Luzon's Francis Dianne Cervantes. The Bulacan-born lass was a semifinalist in the pageant's 2004 edition. "This time prepared *na talaga ako*, I'm more confident," she said. She had taken courses in poise, personality and projection, she explained, as well as in makeup, and gown and swimsuit modeling.

Formidable neophytes

Stephanie Magali of Metro Manila joined the Binibining Pilipinas pageant last year. Since then, she said, "I have changed physically—I grew taller, for one." Unlike most pageant contestants who go on a strict diet, "I ate a lot to gain weight [for Miss Philippines-Earth]."

The neophytes are formidable as well. Among them is six-foot tall Catherine Untalan, the tallest candidate. "I'm considering every option that will be open to me, with this exposure in the pageant," said the fresh psychology graduate of the University of the Philippines, Diliman.

Outgoing queen Gennebelle Raagas will relinquish her title in a colorful coronation night at the UP Theater in Quezon City on May 14. The pageant, presented by Pond's White Beauty and Myra-E, airs live on ABS-CBN.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1 THE SENTINEL	1 THE SENTINEL
2 SLITHER	2 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
3 PAMAHIIN	3 THE WILD
4 THE WILD	4 SLITHER
5 WHENA STRANGER CALLS	

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188	STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270
1 THE WILD	1 SLITHER
2 PAMAHIIN	2 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
3 SILENT HILL	3 PAMAHIIN
4 THE SENTINEL	4 THE WILD
5 SLITHER	5 BANDIDAS
6 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS	6 THE SENTINEL

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1 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN	1 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE
2 FINAL DESTINATION 3	2 D' LUCKY ONES
3 D LUCKY ONES	3 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN
4 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE	4 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
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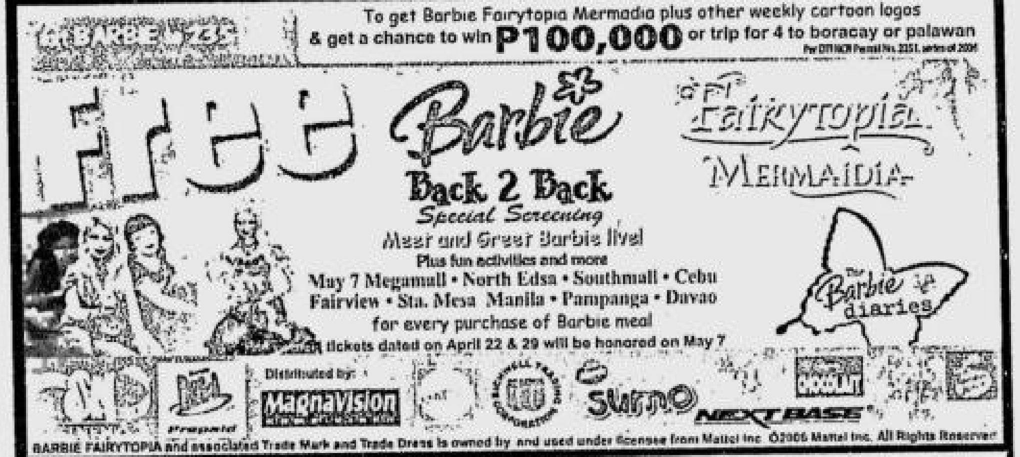

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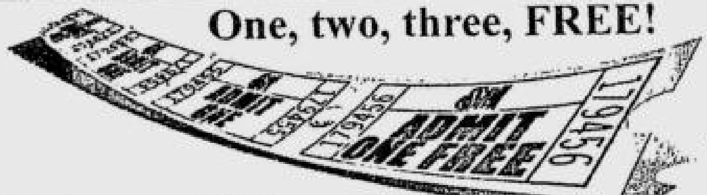

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CINEMA 1
SENTINEL

CINEMA 2
THE WILD

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- THE WILD
- SILENT HILL
- RESERVED
- EIGHT BELOW
- TRISTAN & ISOLDE
- SUBMERGED
- ICE AGE 2
- PAMAHIIN
- D LUCKY ONES
- MOMENTS OF LOVE
- WHEN A STRANGER CALLS

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
- SENTINEL
- WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
- PAMAHIIN
- SILENT HILL
- SUBMERGED
- EIGHT BELOW
- D LUCKY ONES
- THE WILD

SM CITY DASMARINAS
- PAMAHIIN
- THE WILD
- SENTINEL
- WHEN A STRANGER CALLS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
- SUBMERGED
- MOMENTS OF LOVE
- D LUCKY ONES
- SILENT HILL
- PAMAHIIN
- WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
- SENTINEL
- THE WILD
- ICE AGE 2
- EIGHT BELOW
- RESERVED
- RESERVED

SM CITY STA. MESA
- SILENT HILL
- THE WILD
- SENTINEL
- PAMAHIIN
- WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
- TRISTAN & ISOLDE
- EIGHT BELOWD
- SUBMERGED
- D LUCKY ONES
- ICE AGE 2

SM CITY BICUTAN
- SENTINEL
- THE WILD
- WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
- SILENT HILL

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
- SILENT HILL
- WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
- THE WILD
- SENTINEL
- D LUCKY ONES
- PAMAHIIN

SM CITY MANILA
- WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
- SUBMERGED
- VENOM
- EIGHT BELOW
- THE WILD
- SENTINEL
- PAMAHIIN
- ICE AGE 2
- MOMENTS OF LOVE
- TRISTAN & ISOLDE
- D LUCKY ONES
- SILENT HILL

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
- SENTINEL
- THE WILD
- D LUCKY ONES
- SILENT HILL
- ICE AGE 2
- WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
- EIGHT BELOW
- PAMAHIIN
- SUBMERGED

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
- SILENT HILL
- SENTINEL
- THE WILD
- WHEN A STRANGER CALLS

SM CITY SUCAT
- THE WILD
- PAMAHIIN
- D LUCKY ONES
- SILENT HILL

WHEN A STRANGER CALLS

Jill Johnson, a young high school student who worked part-time as a babysitter, thought it's just going to be a quiet evening. Not until she answers a call from a mysterious person, who keeps on asking her, "Have you checked the children?" When the children are suddenly nowehere to be found, Jill gets more nervous when she realizes that the caller is also in the same house.

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB Rating PG 13

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WHEN A STRANGER CALLS

LUZON

SM CITY BAGUIO
- SENTINEL
- D LUCKY ONES
- WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
- THE WILD

SM CITY MARILAO
- WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
- PAMAHIIN
- D LUCKY ONES
- BANDIDAS

SM CITY BATANGAS
- FINAL DESTINATION 3
- D LUCKY ONES
- PAMAHIIN
- WHEN A STRANGER CALLS

SM CITY BACOOR
- WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
- SENTINEL
- SILENT HILL
- SUBMERGED
- EIGHT BELOW
- D LUCKY ONES
- THE WILD
- PAMAHIIN

SM CITY STA. ROSA
- PAMAHIIN
- WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
- CUESHE CONCERT
- THE WILD

SM CITY PAMPANGA
- WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
- SENTINEL
- THE WILD
- D LUCKY ONES
- BANDIDAS
- PAMAHIIN

SM CITY LUCENA
- ULTRAVIOLET
- BANDIDAS
- JUST FRIENDS
- D LUCKY ONES

SM CITY MOLINO
- SENTINEL
- PAMAHIIN
- WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
- D LUCKY ONES

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
- EIGHT BELOW
- SENTINEL
- WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
- THE WILD
- JUST FRIENDS
- PAMAHIIN
- D LUCKY ONES
- ICE AGE 2

SM CITY ILOILO
- JUST FRIENDS
- RESERVED
- D LUCKY ONES
- SILENT HILL
- PAMAHIIN
- WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
- RESERVED
- TRISTAN & ISOLDE

SM CITY DAVAO
- SENTINEL
- PAMAHIIN
- EIGHT BELOW
- WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
- D LUCKY ONES
- THE WILD

SM CITY CAGAYAN
- EIGHT BELOW
- D LUCKY ONES
- THE WILD
- WHEN A STRANGER CALLS

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

CHEER FACTOR

Is that Elvis?

NASHVILLE, Tennessee—In a new television commercial promoting Tennessee state tourism, a dashing young Elvis Presley drives his red convertible Corvette Stingray in a clip from his 1967 film "Clambake."

But this time, the bouffant blonde riding in the passenger seat is country music icon Dolly Parton—through digital wizardry.

"I've played a lot of stages over the years but there's one I never get tired of that's set for a great time day or night—Tennessee," Parton says before an announcer chimes in over scenes of Graceland, the Great Smoky Mountains and several other Tennessee attractions.

Then, Parton turns to Presley and says, "Let's pick it up a little bit, honey. There's all kinds of things to do in Tennessee. But next time, let's take the pink Cadillac." *AP*

FEEDBACK

Portents?

From Loi Reyes Landicho (ilove_csi@hotmail.com) 9F Jacinta Bldg II, Edsa, Guadalupe, Makati City:

First, Rudy Fernandez was hospitalized. Then, Jinggoy Estrada collapsed on stage and was rushed to the Makati Med. Last week, Phillip Salvador was convicted of estafa. Is there a pattern here? Bong Revilla must be nervous. Knock on wood. More power PDI Entertainment!

I agree

From Grace of ANZ (anz_mnl_facilitators6@yahoo.com) 3C Valuepoint Executive Apartment, 227 Salcedo St, Legaspi Village
Makati City:

I support the feedback of Mars Sahulga regarding the result of the "Little Big Star." This is to inform the management of the ABS-CBN that we are very disappointed! Charisse should have won.

Too much

From Tim A (tim@ocean-deep.biz), PO Box 180 San Fernando La Union:

I totally agree with Nestor U. Torre on his comments about little big star and their wearing too much makeup. All Filipinos and Filipinas, especially, have natural beauty. To cover it with gawdy makeup to make them look older takes away from this natural beauty. It also is one reason that there are some many abuses of younger people as they are made to look and feel older. Let them be themselves and evaluate their singing. Other than that, I like the show as there are very talented younger singers here. I am looking forward to "Philipine Idol."

MAS PINA-HAPPY, HAPPY HOUR ANG PRIMETIME NATIN!

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Simula Monday, **May 1,**
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Monday - Friday
8:00 PM

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Isko Salvador • Diego Llorico • Renee Summers

Tuesdays
8:30 PM

Formula for trouble

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED SEASON OF ABC-5's "Shall We Dance?" celebrity challenge was a hit because it's three finalist stars **Mystica, Wowee de Guzman** and **William Martinez** and their respective dance partners worked hard on their showcase performances.

Still high from that exhilarating viewing experience, we tuned in to the celebrity dance challenge's new season last April 16—only to be rudely disappointed.

This time around, in place of the usual DI (dance instructor) partners, four Sexbomb dancers were fielded to dance with celebrities **Michael de Mesa, Tirso Cruz III, Jake Roxas** and **Boboy Garrovillo.**

That night in "casting" proved to be a formula for trouble, since the Sexbomb girls were too raw to effectively teach their star partners how to really dance, and to conceptualize outstanding choreography for their numbers.

As a result, most of the male celebrities opted to take the line of least resistance and, instead of really dancing, just "partnered" their respective teammates, who did most of the terpsichorean work.

Obviously, this is no way to "compete" in a dance tilt, so we trust that, after having undergone their "baptism of fire" last April 16, the celebrity hoofers will decide to give the completion everything they've got from here on in.

On the new season's premiere telecast, Boboy did best of all, because he at least bothered to infuse his dancing with a sense of fun. For his part, Jake looked uncomfortable and "resigned" himself to "escorting" his Sexbomb partner around the dance floor. Let's hope he perks up fast.

The stars' numbers were generally so weak that the show's judges had a hard time putting a positive spin on them. In trying to be upbeat, they give the dance teams scores that were generally too high for their less than commendable efforts.

Talent tilt judges should remind themselves that they're to set standards and to reward outstanding work. Giving an 8 out of a perfect 10 for weak dancing doesn't do anybody any good.

We know that the jurors are simply trying to encourage the celebrity contestants to do better, but when the stars start doing really outstanding work, what grade will the judges give them—12 out of a perfect 10?

We trust that the new season of "Shall We Dance?" gets its act together soon, because the shows recently concluded season set a high performance standard that should inspire other stars rather that intimidate them.

Perhaps the key difference is that Mystica, Wowee and William were good dancers to begin with, and they were partners by experienced dance professionals.

Be that as it may, the current field of celebrity dancers has to do what it can to rise above its limitations or inhibitions, to sustain the show's hard-earned popularity with viewers.

Feedback

FROM **Paul R. Montel:** "Last April 9, I viewed a film at the Gateway 5 theater. I am glad to report that, finally, the theater aired the Philippine National Anthem before the screening, although it was only on audio. I hope Gateway's other theaters are already doing the same."

From **Ed R. Corrales** of Makati City: "I watched the show on the so-called Gospel of Judas, but it did not detail what the old document contained, so it was difficult for me to evaluate its message. How can we get hold of the translation?"

We have received these excerpts from the National Geographic Channel: "The Gospel of Judas" text begins, "The secret account of the revelation that Jesus spoke in conversation with Judas Iscariot during a week, three days before he celebrated Passover." It reflects themes that scholars regard as being consistent with Gnostic traditions. In the first scene, Jesus laughs at his disciples for praying to "your God" meaning the Old Testament God who created the world. He challenges them to look at him and understand what he really is, but they turn away.

"The key passage comes when Jesus tells Judas, '... you will exceed all of them. For you will sacrifice the man who clothes me.'

"Judas is singled out for special status: 'Step away from the others and I shall tell you the mysteries of the kingdom. It is possible for you to reach it, but you will grieve a great deal.' Jesus says. He also tells Judas, 'Look, you have been told everything. Lift up your eyes and look at the cloud and the light within it, and the stars surrounding it. The star that leads the way is your star.'

"The gospel also suggests Judas will be despised by the other disciples, but will be exalted over them: '... You will be cursed by the other generations—and you will come to rule over them...'

"The gospel ends abruptly: 'They (the arresting party) approved ... and he received some money and handed him over to them. No mention is made of Jesus' crucifixion or resurrection."

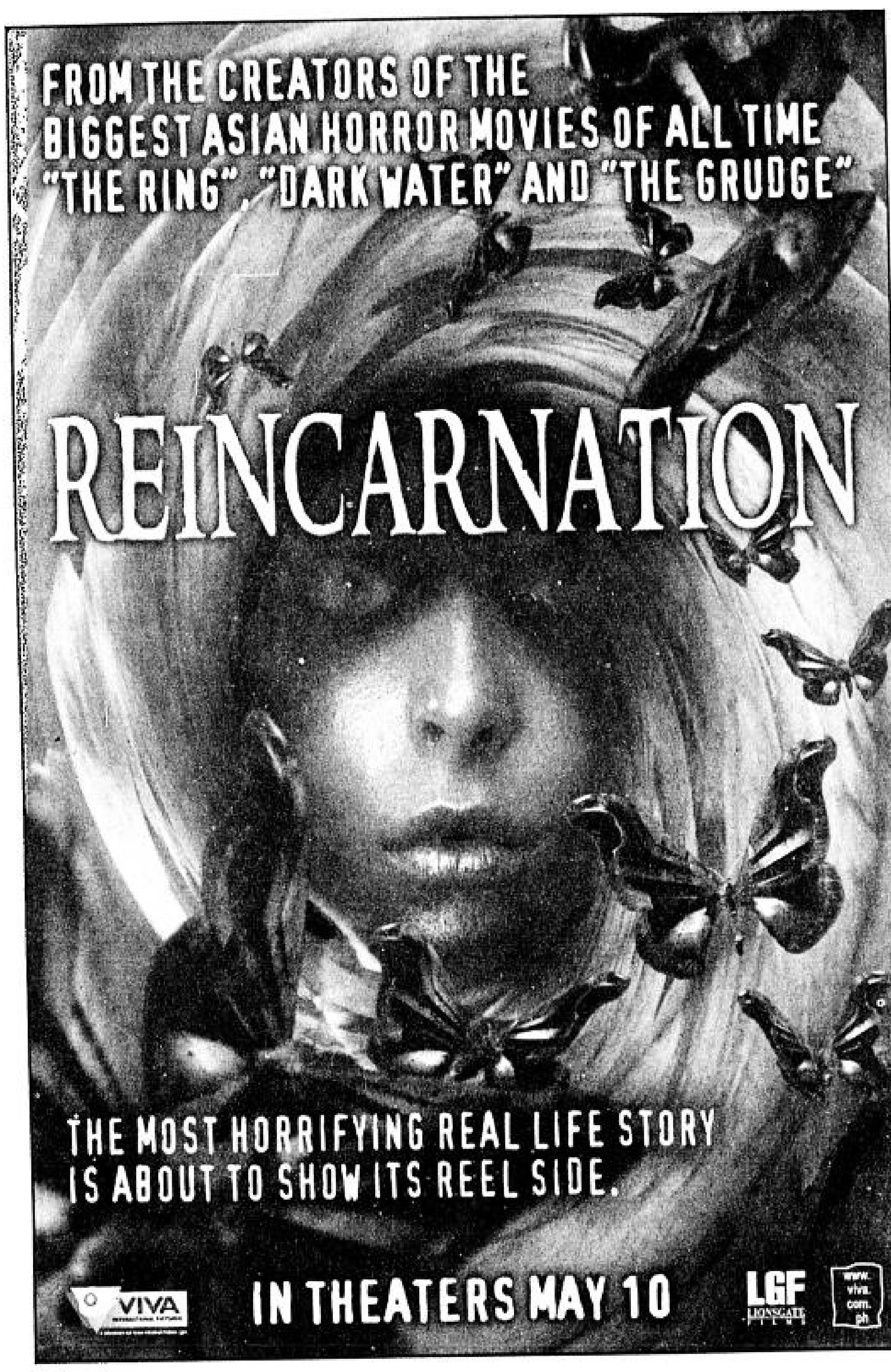
Summer Enrichment Program

THE SUMMER Enrichment Program of AHEAD Tutorial and Review Center teaches techniques in tackling their study habits and rise above mediocre class performance. Call 4260034 to 36 or e-mail aheadph@gmail.com.

"Slither"

IN the horror film "Slither" the sleepy town of wheelry is like any small town in the United States—until farmers' livestock turn up horribly mutilated and a young woman goes missing. Sheriff Bill Pardy (**Nathan Fillion**) and his team uncover the dark force laying siege to the town—and come face to face with ancient organism intent on absorbing and devouring all life on earth.

Variety's **Joe Leydon's** take on the film: "Slither" is a gleefully nasty and ingeniously twisted horror-comedy that pits a populace of heavily-armed but mostly clueless rednecks against flesh-eating zombies, slimy extraterrestrial slugs and acid-spewing, multi-tentacled mutants. It gradually accelerates and eventually achieves a breakneck momentum that makes the ride even more exhilarating."



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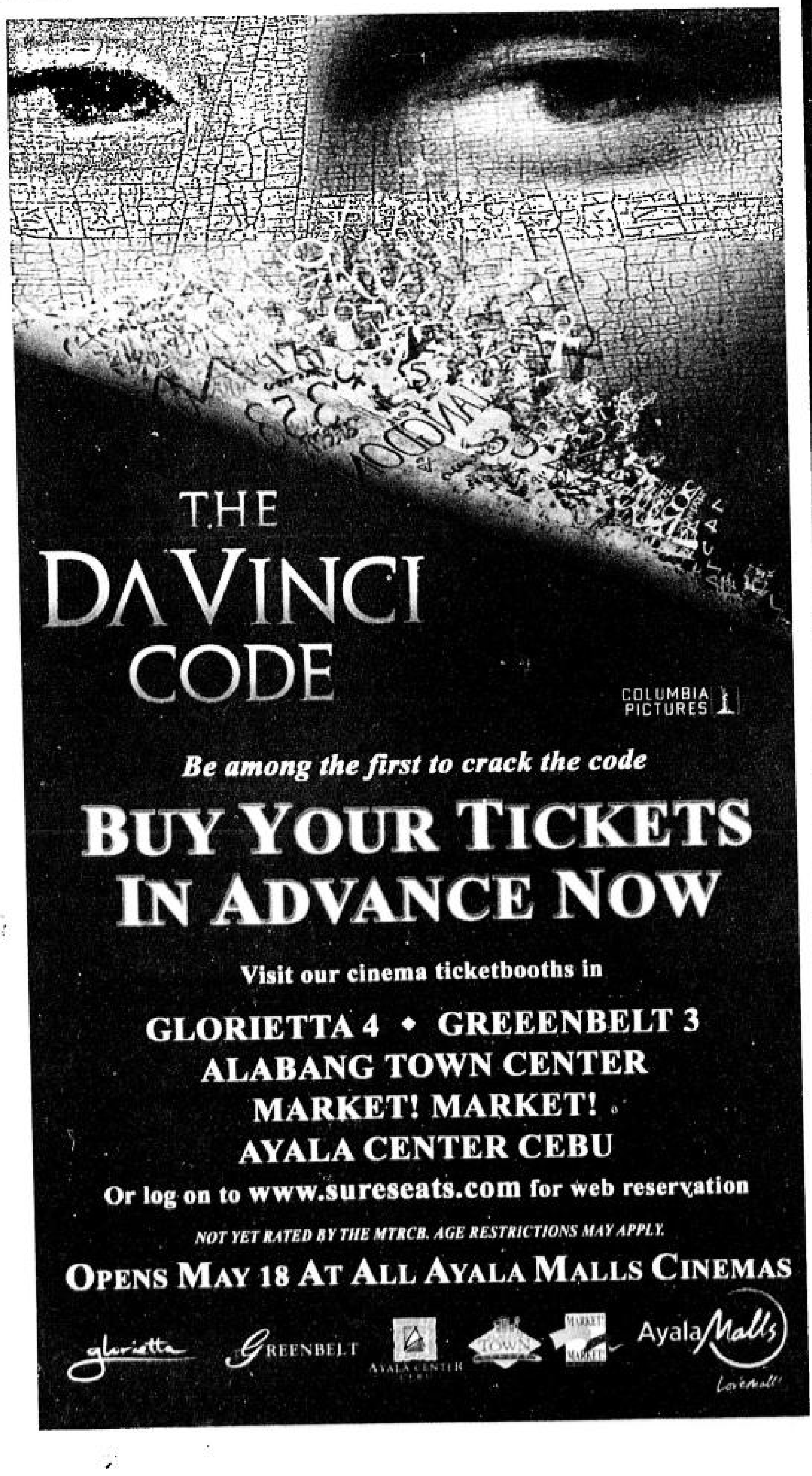

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2 THE WILD 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 6:45, 8:50, 10:55 G
3 THE SENTINEL 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:55, 11:05 PG-13
4 SILENT HILL 11:20, 2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:05 R-13

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③ WHEN A STRANGER CALLS MTRCB PG-13 1.20, 3.30, 5.40, 7.50, 10.00
② THE SENTINEL MTRCB: PG-13 12 00 2 30 5 00 7 30 10 00 LMF
④ SILENT HILL MTRCB R-13 1 00 4.00, 7.00,10 00
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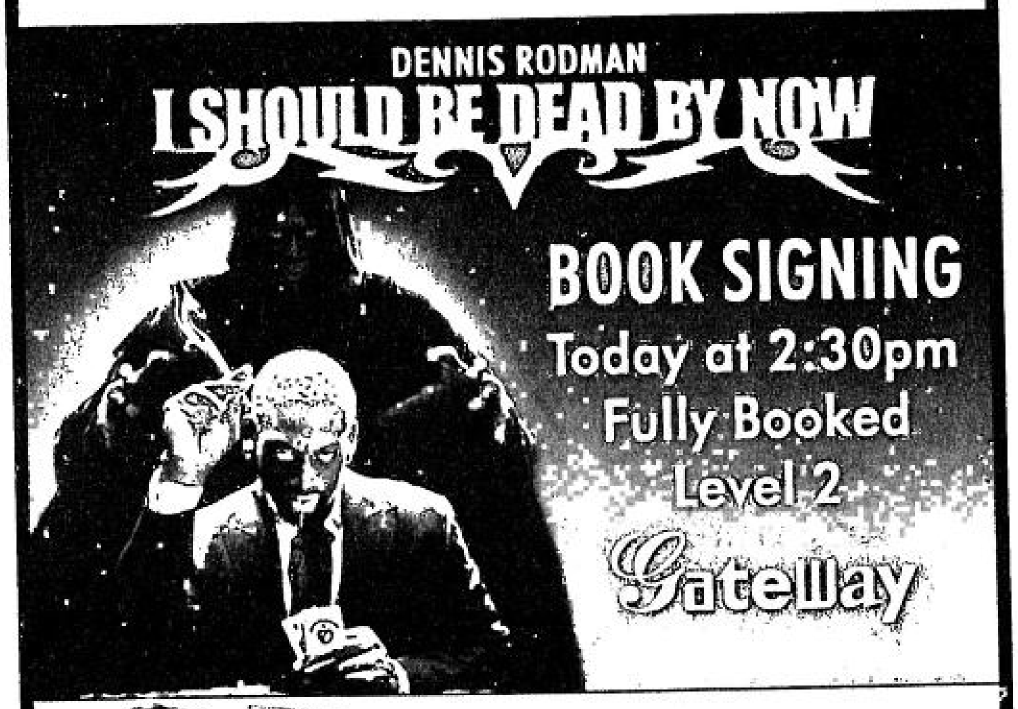

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Behind Closed Doors, a retro dance band

A NEW RETRO BAND PLAYS NOT ONLY THE hits of the '60s and '70s but also top-of-the-line ballroom music for dance enthusiasts. Behind Closed Doors is the brainchild of Mon Pestaño, the whiz kid drummer of The Robins.

Mon hits the drums anew to heat up the dance scene. On first keyboard is Pepe Pestaño, who used to play piano with The Robins and who is now BCD vocal arranger and musical director. On second keyboard is Rey Martinez, midi-arranger, providing full-orchestra sounds such as string and brass sections.

Bass guitarist is Bert Remigio, another Robins original, who became an active session musician. Playing lead guitar is Samson Abarquez, who has played all over the world with various bands, and is sought after by big-name stars, foreign and local, for recordings and live concerts.

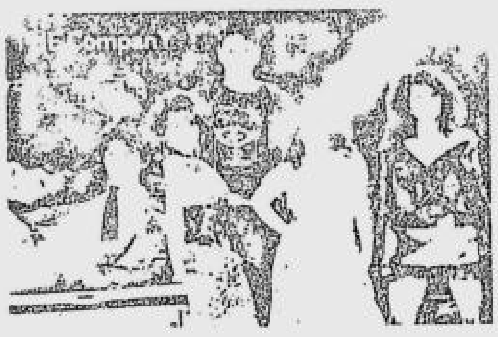
On vocals are three men and a lady, each one a seasoned soloist as well as harmonizer. Louanne Cuenco, alto soprano, is a livewire performer who trained in dance before singing. She has recorded commercial jingles, sang with different showbands, and does lounge acts. Playing with BCD, her OPM hit single, "I Don't Love You Anymore," which she cut with the New Minstrels in the late '80s, is one of the most requested songs.

Benjie Bautista has been singing with different bands since high school days in Ateneo—Mom's Little Men, Unison and other groups in Korea, Japan, the Middle East. In '95 he joined Lani Misalucha's band Silk and then retired, until BCD was formed.

Bobby Ramiro has played piano and sung for audiences from China to New York. BCD is Bobby's first time to sing with a band.

Cholo Santiago started singing also in Ateneo High School (Snobs), then UP (Up From Down Under). He turned professional in '71, performing nightly with Birth of Cool in Hyatt's La Concha. He went abroad and returned in '92, when he sang with Spirit of '67 until 2005.

BCD sings Tuesday at Conways Bar, Makati Shangrila; Wednesdays at Chef & Brewer, Ortigas; Thursday at Funnside, Timog. Call (0919) 825-9510.



SHOW TIME

Powerdance tonight

"Powerdancing in the Dark" by Douglas Nierras' Powerdance opens at the Meralco Theater tonight, repeats tomorrow.

"Powerdancing" showcases a new concept in dance called Black Theater. Call 995-8287 and 995-8283.

Steven Chapman

Steven Curtis Chapman with U-Turn and a surprise guest will be perform in a live benefit concert, "I Will Be Here," on May 7, 7 p.m., at the PICC Plenary Hall. Beneficiaries are Anawin, Gawad Kalinga and Shaohannah's Hope.

Chapman, best known for writing and singing the hit "I Will Be Here," is a multi-platinum artist, five-time Grammy winner and 50 Dove Award winner. Call 633-0596.

BEHIND Closed Doors

STEVEN Curtis Champman

K Brosas

NYOY Volante

Today

Pupil and **Sandwich** at **MTV** and **Motorola** "Mobbed" event in **Boracay**

Shamrock at **Metropolis Star Alabang**; 5 p.m.

AiAi Delas Alas' Maggi Magic Sarap Palengke Tour at **La Paz Public Market** and **Jaro Plaza, Iloilo**

Join the Club at **Robinson's Starmills Pampanga**

May 2

K and **The Boxers** at **Zirkoh Greenhills**

May 3

K and **The Boxers** at **Klownz Araneta**

May 4

The CompanY at **Hard Rock Café**

Mon David, Nolyn Cabahug and **Cynthia Alexander** join UK-based **Antonio Forcione** in a concert at **Crossroad 77 Convention Center**, Mother Ignacia St., QC

Cueshe at **Ratsky Malate**

May 6

Side A at **Starmall Edsa**

Join the Club at **Robinson's Place Manila**

K and **The Boxers** at **Ratsky Malate**

May 10

"Tipa... Masters of Guitars: **Nyoy Volante**" at Teatrino Promenade, Greenhills, San Juan

K and **The Boxers** at **Klownz Araneta**

May 11

The CompanY at **Hard Rock Café**

"**Tipa... Masters of Guitars: Nyoy Volante**" at Teatrino Promenade, Greenhills, San Juan

May 12

Bituin Escalante in her first major concert at **Onstage, Greenbelt 1**

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	4 PAMAHIIN	5 EIGHT BELOW	6 THE WILD	7 SILENT HILL
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS	2 SENTINEL		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX SENTINEL 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:00, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX SILENT HILL 12:50, 3:30, 6:10, 8:50, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 TRISTAN & ISOLDE 1:25, 3:45, 6:05, 8:25, 10:45 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE WILD 1:10, 3:05, 5:00, 6:55, 8:50, 10:45 GUARANTEED SEATS	
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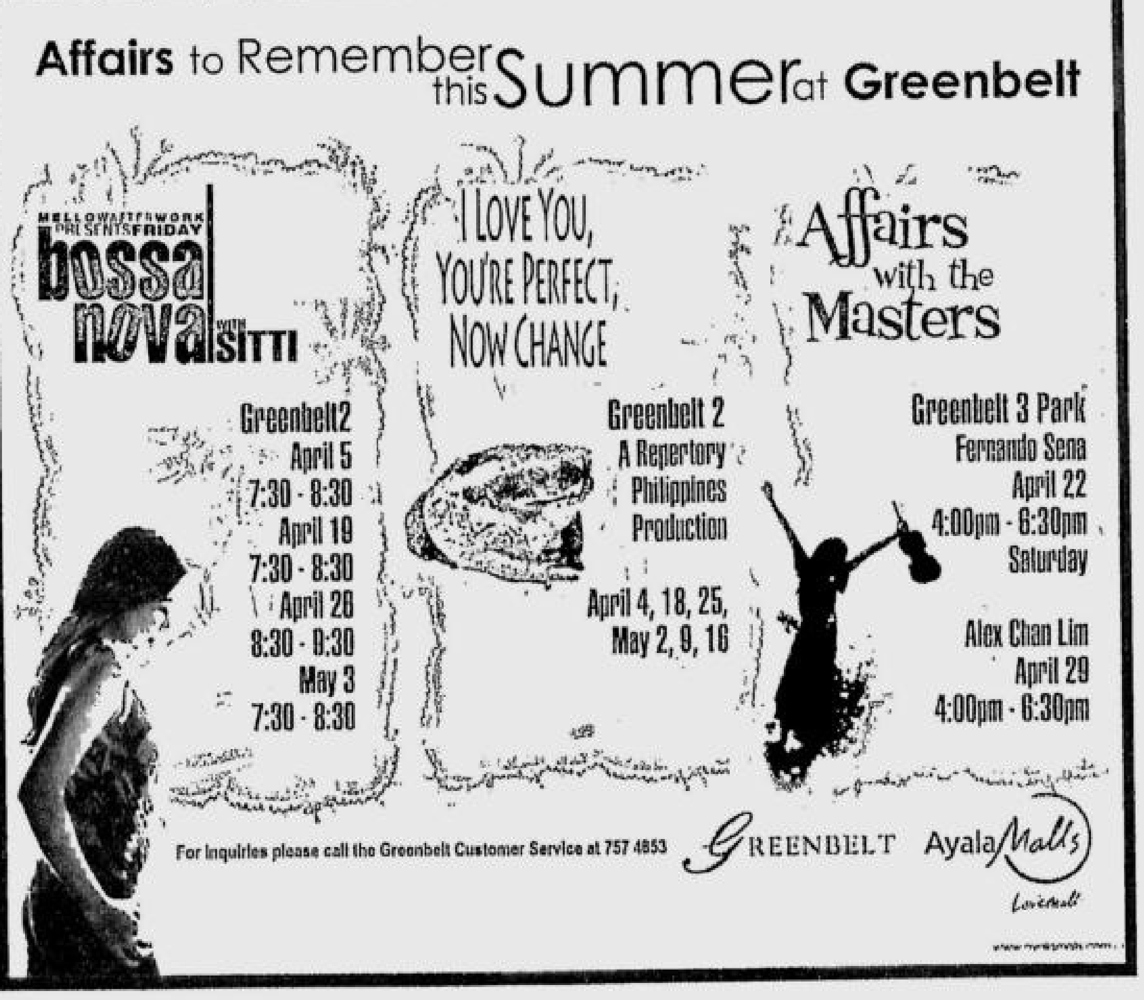

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A Repertory Philippines Production
April 4, 18, 25, May 2, 9, 16
Affairs with the Masters
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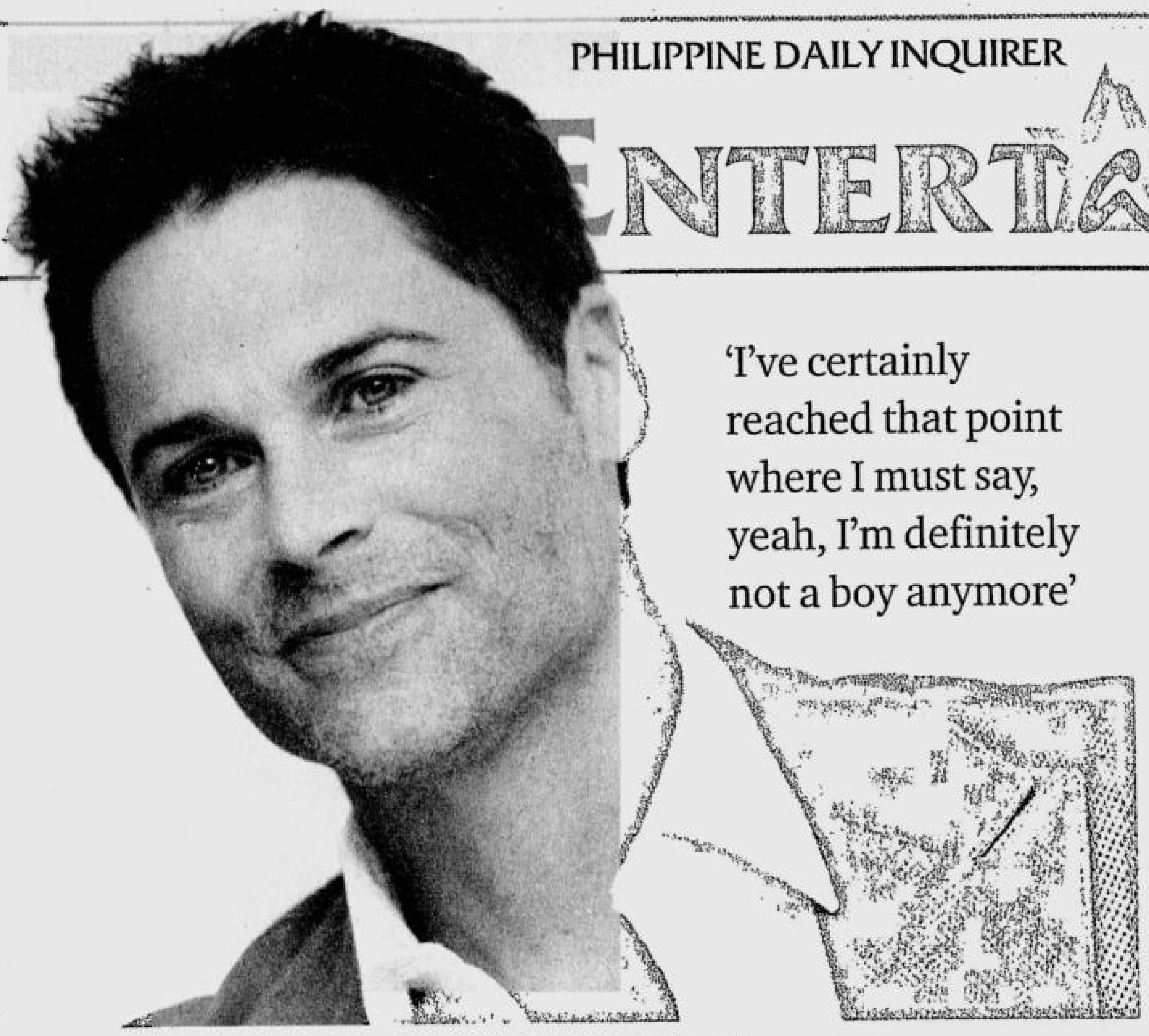


ROB Lowe

> 'I've certainly reached that point where I must say, yeah, I'm definitely not a boy anymore'

A Lowe-down on his life & career

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—ROB LOWE'S PRETTY FACE is maturing well.

As he settles into middle age, the hot poster boy of the '80s has also developed an easy, if self-deprecating, air about him. He can freely joke about himself. This member of the Brat Pack is lucky to have a steady career at this stage in his life. He could have fizzled into oblivion or become a has-been appearing in B projects but these days, the blue-eyed actor is enjoying a respectable, if not spectacular, run.

Fortunately for Rob, it turns out that he has acting chops that enabled him to make the transition from hunk *du jour* to, simply, Actor. He has a short but memorable role as a top Hollywood agent in "Thank You For Smoking." In this brilliant satire that we saw with Rob at Sundance last January (it sparked a bidding war among film distributors), his character is a source of amusing sight gags that illustrate the ostentatiousness of that powerful Hollywood animal, the Agent.

A bitingly funny adaptation of **Christopher Buckley**'s novel, "Thank You For Smoking" stars a terrific **Aaron Eckhart** as a tobacco industry lobbyist with a killer smile who would do anything to put his spin across. During the Q and A after that Sundance screening, debuting filmmaker **Jason Reitman**, talented son of director Ivan ("Ghostbusters"), expressed surprise that a sex scene involving Aaron and **Katie Holmes**, who plays a Washington Post reporter (we told you Aaron's character would do anything), had been cut short.

Jason's remarks prompted speculation that Katie's man, **Tom Cruise**, put pressure on the film distributor to trim the said scene. It proved to be false—it was simply a goof by the projectionist—but the rumor persisted.

Rob—and the rest of the cast of "Thank You"—got excellent reviews. The actor, whose early credits include starring with Tom Cruise, **Matt Dillon** and **Patrick Swayze** as teenagers in **Francis Ford Coppola**'s acclaimed 1983 film, also earned favorable notices last year when he dared venture into the London stage in the play "A Few Good Men."

Rob recently returned to the set of "The West Wing" to appear in its farewell episode. He earned the critics' respect, and ultimately an Emmy nomination for his portrayal of a White House communications director in the TV series which he quit in 2002 due to pay disputes.

The former party animal, once linked to such high profile ladies as Monaco's Princess **Stephanie**, socialite **Cornelia Guest** and actress **Nastassja Kinski**, and whose high school classmates included **Charlie Sheen** and **Sean Penn**, have settled into domesticity with wife **Sheryl Berkoff**. The couple, married in 1991, are raising two sons in Santa Barbara, California.

When you think about the early part of your career, what comes to your mind?

A lot of my early movies are being reissued on DVD on their 20th anniversaries (laughs). I'm glad that I'm still here, talking before you guys. Lately, I've been doing a DVD commentary for the 25th year of "The Outsiders."

It makes me think about those times [when] my life was just about going from project to project and that was my total focus. I had nobody to answer to but myself. No mortgage... wife... [or] kids. You're just thinking along the lines of "Hey, I hope I can be in that new **Scorsese** movie." It was a really simple, fun time like we all had when we were kids. I get to re-live that every time I turn on HBO or Showtime and see one of my old movies. It's kind of cool.

What do you think about the new Rob Lowes?

I don't run into them at restaurants because I don't live here (in LA) so my exposure to the new generation—I never thought I'd be saying that (laughs)—I want to go blow my brains out now, thank you (laughs). My exposure to the new generation is limited to what I read and see. It's the same story for any generation. You're new, you're getting famous really young, you don't know who you are. The ones who have it together really stand out. In my generation, among the guys who were really focused early on was Tom Cruise. Tom always had his eye on the ball. Today, I see that in **Reese Witherspoon**.

Do your sons look like you?

They look a lot like their mom but yeah, they're blonde versions of me. My oldest son is going to his first sock hop this week. He's dressing as Soda Pop Curtis (Rob's character) in "The Outsiders" which gives him an unfair advantage. He's going to get some girls to dance with him based on that alone.

How old are you now?

Forty-two, but I am going to start lying about my age now (laughs).

You don't look 42.

Good, because I am going to start lying for real (laughs) in the next press conference.

I am not going to ask who you based your agent character on in "Thank You For Smoking."

You can ask.

Okay, who?

The love of all things Asian is based on **Mike Ovitz** because everybody knows he loves the art of war and Sun Tzu. He was very into that but the demeanor is not Mike Ovitz at all. The demeanor is actually a combination of three or four people that I cannot name but it's the new version of powerful "agenting." In the old days it was, "You'll never work in this town again." That's much too messy. So now, it is equally as full of shit, if you'll excuse me (laughs). Now, it's "We're just humble people (laughs), artists trying to put people together." That's the new dynamic and that's what I was trying to do.

What's the worst piece of advice that an agent has given you?

That I should take a movie for way less than I'd ever made before. I thought, wow, if that's what he thinks I'm worth, I'd better get a new agent.

Did you?

I did, and I ended up doing the movie for what I wanted to do it for. But generally, I've been lucky. Everybody who has represented me has been really great. Agents are a lot like politicians. I was on a show about politics ("The West Wing") for a long time. Politicians are easy targets. They're easy to make fun of. A lot of people don't like them and there are a lot of them that are unlikable.

Same with agents. But in my experience, most agents believe in what they do. They want to help talent. They want talent to succeed. Although I had a lot of fun making fun of agents in this movie, the truth is, like most politicians, most agents take their jobs really seriously and are good at it.

Was the kimono scene your idea?

It was Mr. Jason Reitman's idea (laughs). We have a picture of us on the set—the wardrobe person is showing us the kimono and I'm looking at it like, "Whoa, pal, I don't know about this (laughs)." We actually had a moment where I said to Jason, "Am I really going to wear this kimono in the movie?" and he went, "Yeah, I think you are." I said, "All right, let's do it." I'm glad I did, because the biggest laugh every time I see the movie is when it's revealed that it's me in the kimono.

I was thinking about this. One of my favorite, though sad, moments at the Oscars every year is the "In memoriam" sequence (dedicated to film talents who died in the past year). I said to Jason, "In 60 years, 70 years, whatever it is, God bless when I've moved on to the great movie in the sky, if that kimono is in my 'in memoriam' portion (laughs), I will kill you."

What was it like wearing that kimono?

Like wearing an iron suit. You're like the Tin Woodsman in "The Wizard of Oz." They would just sort of tilt me against the wall. You can't take it off by yourself. It was very uncomfortable. It was very heavy. When my first set of really nice reviews came out for this, Jason wanted to buy me a kimono as a gift (laughs).

There's a funny line in the movie that is said a couple of times, that Aaron's character did it for the mortgage.

I love it. The Yuppie Nuremberg Defense, they call it: "I did it for the mortgage."

Can you tell us which films you did for the mortgage?

I think if you go to imdb.com and look at my filmography, you can probably guess (laughs).

How was your experience appearing in a play ("A Few Good Men") in London?

I was there for six months, which really takes you off the market for a year. I'm still paying the effects of that but I'm glad I did. I was welcomed with open arms on every level—both the critics, who were fantastic to me, and the audiences. We were always number one among the straight drama plays.

I met (British Prime Minister) **Tony Blair** when he came to the rehearsal to say hello. It was just an amazing experience. But the agents went, "Oh, you're going to go work for free for six months, huh? Fantastic (laughs)."

Were you emotional when you returned to tape a special appearance in the final episode of "The West Wing"?

First of all, since you're all here, I thank you guys because, as you all remember, you were the first people to recognize "The West Wing." We have never forgotten that and the last thing I did when I left the stage was look at the four Emmys and that first Golden Globe in an area of the studio where all of the trophies are kept. That was the last thing I looked at. I walked out and that was it. It was sad but more than anything, there was just a great sense of what that show was at its height. The show has changed a lot in the years that I was not on it. I don't recognize a lot of it but it was good to be back at the end and sort of help put it to bed.

Didn't you write and direct a short film?

I did. I had big plans. What happened was, I had a lot of people interested in me as a director and a lot of really fun stuff was happening. But then I read the script for this pesky little pilot called "The West Wing" and that did it. It fulfilled me so much creatively that I didn't have anything left. It also left me exhausted in terms of the amount of time I had to commit to it. I am just now starting to get back into writer-director mode.

Back to the time when you were a party animal...

Party animal (laughs). She's (the reporter) throwing down the party animal card.

Well, you were talking about just going from one project to another and living a carefree life. Are you a man now?

Wow. There was probably a series of events. I don't think there was any one thing. I am not doing an **Oprah** (**Winfrey**) confessional but getting sober was a big thing for me. It has been 16 years now that I have been sober. Getting married, having children. That informs who you are, as a man and then, just good old-fashioned age. Good old-fashioned time on the planet dealing with problems, making mistakes. I think a combination of those things probably got me to the point where I go "Yeah, I'm definitely not a boy anymore."

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

RUSHES

'Most Downloaded Woman'

CINDY MARGOLIS, the "Most Downloaded Woman" on the Internet, is following up her win on the TV reality show "Celebrity Cooking Showdown" with a career first — posing nude for Playboy. The mother of three told The Associated Press that she finally agreed to pose for the magazine when they called on her 40th birthday. She said, "Thank goodness for 'Desperate Housewives.' You're not dead just because you are married and have children."

FRANCINE Prieto

'Most beautiful'

She's got that pregnant glow, but it is Angelina Jolie's humanitarian efforts that make her most radiant, AP quoted People magazine by way of announcing that the "pillow-lipped actress" graces the cover of the mag's "100 Most Beautiful People" issue, on newsstands this weekend. It's her fourth time on the list, but first as cover girl. *AP*

ANGELINA Jolie

Spanish version

Meanwhile, Jennifer Lopez is on the cover of People En Español's annual "50 Most Beautiful" issue, on newsstands tomorrow. The list includes Eva Longoria, Ricky Martin, Shakira, Jessica Alba and Eva Mendes. J Lo, 37, was also named one of People's 100 most beautiful people. *AP*

RYAN Seacrest

CINDY Margolis

JENNIFER Lopez

World's sexiest

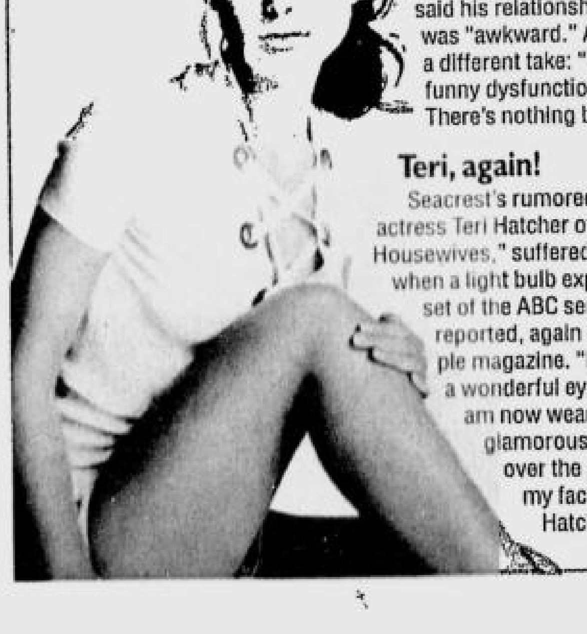
British actress Keira Knightley was voted the world's sexiest woman in a magazine poll on Thursday, beating model Keeley Hazel and Hollywood star Scarlett Johansson into second and third place, according to Reuters. The poll was conducted by British magazine FHM, which said it received two million votes. Angelina Jolie landed in fourth place. *Reuters*

TERI Hatcher

Fainting pills

Francine Prieto swears she has stopped taking diet pills after she fainted on the set of one of her TV shows last week.

According to Francine's mom, the sexy actress lost 30 pounds since she started taking the pills in preparation for a big fashion show in June.



KEIRA Knightley

Feud on 'Idol'

AP also says "American Idol" host Ryan Seacrest told magazine he and judge Paula Abdul are not speaking to one another (Abdul calls reports of a feud "ridiculous.") Seacrest, 31, said his relationship with Abdul was "awkward." Abdul, 43 has a different take: "We are one funny dysfunctional family. There's nothing but love." *AP*

Teri, again!

Seacrest's rumored girlfriend, actress Teri Hatcher of "Desperate Housewives," suffered an eye injury when a light bulb exploded on the set of the ABC series, AP also reported, again quoting People magazine. "I was taken to a wonderful eye doctor, and am now wearing a most glamorous eye patch over the right half of my face," said Hatcher, 41. *AP*

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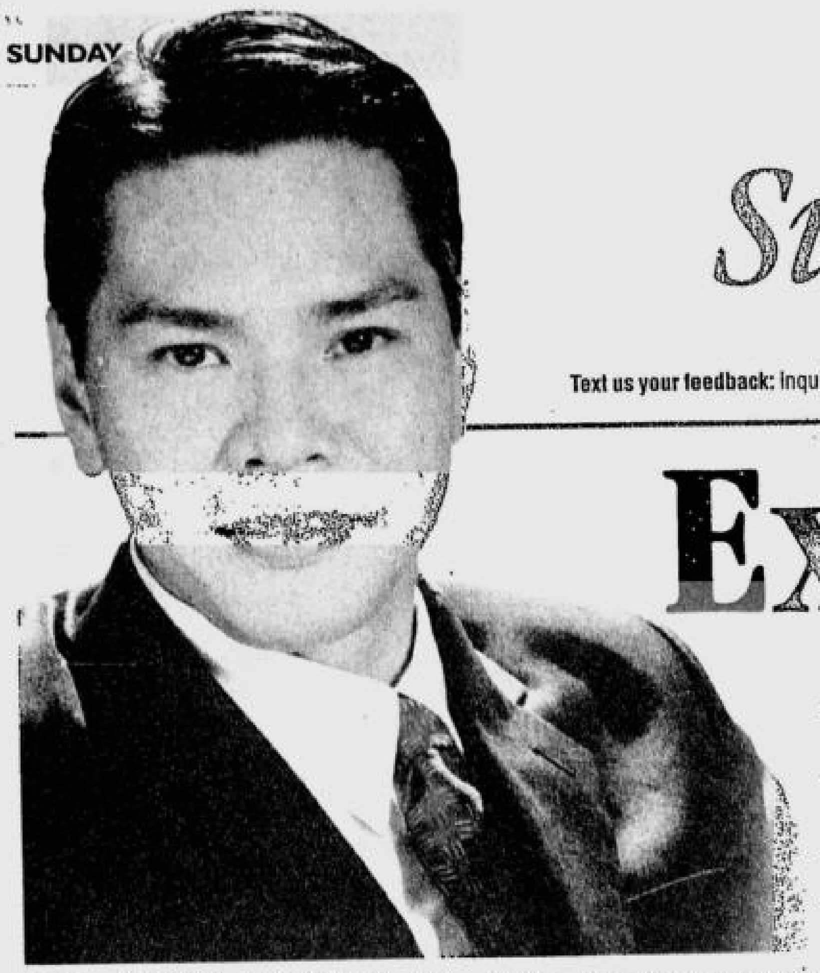

Ex-jock tosses out ball for different game

Largest tuna producer said no to son's sports career

RITCHIE C. RIVERA, 32, dreamt of playing as a professional for the Philippine Basketball Association. This six-footer, star center-forward of the University of San Carlos basketball team in the late '80s, already had talks with PBA talent scouts then.

But he gave it up because his father, Rodrigo Rivera Sr., owner of a large tuna canning operation in General Santos City, Cotabato, said "No!" He wanted his son to work for his RD Corp. in the nation's tuna capital.

"Dad, my idol, is 99 percent influential in my decision-making," Ritchie explains.

Thus, after completing his Business Administration degree from the USC in 1989, Ritchie started his field training in the family's tuna canning operation in Celebes.

From there, he was sent to start RD Tuna Canners, the RD group's tuna cannery in Papua New Guinea which his dad bought in 1993. It was located on 860 hectares of land which had fishery and tuna canning factory operations and a coconut plantation.

For five years, Ritchie stayed at Papua New Guinea, a newly independent South Pacific democracy east of Indonesia. Slightly larger than California, Papua New Guinea then was a poor, isolated country, with no television even in Port Moresby, the capital.

Ritchie also had to cope with the country's beautiful but rugged terrain with little infrastructure and a secessionist revolt in the island of Bougainville that claimed thousands of lives.

"For five years, I stayed in Papua New Guinea, totally devoid of everything, especially a social life and a girl friend," the city lad, recalls.

But after the initial culture shock, the years of loneliness now strike him as the most beautiful in terms of learning leadership and corporate management.

He also learned the value of an austere lifestyle. All these he credits to his father's foresight in sending him to this former Australian colony.

At Papua New Guinea he spent his time mastering fishing and tuna canning operations and helping to grow RD Tuna Canners.

After five years, he returned to his hometown, General Santos City, to work for PhilBest Tuna Canning Corp., acquired by his father from RFM Corp. He was able to quickly turn the business around with PhilBest becoming profitable two years after he took over.

Having applied everything he learned in Papua New Guinea, this particular success gave him much fulfillment.

"Triple ang binawi at kinita ng PhilBest," he boasts.

He then became president of RD Manufacturing Group and at the same time executive vice president and chief operating officer of RD Corp. which his father heads.

Today, RD Manufacturing, which employs 2,400 people, is the country's top exporter of canned tuna. It is the only tuna canning business in the Philippines that has its own fishing company and packaging facility.

RD Manufacturing was awarded by the Office of the President as the top export grosser in the agriculture sector in 2003.

In 2005, his company exported some $20 million worth of canned tuna to countries in Asia, Europe and North America.

RD Manufacturing is accredited by the Europe-based EFSIS, the world's premier third party independent inspection and certification service, the International Group Safety, and the Bureau of Aquatic and Fisheries Resources of the Department of Agriculture.

Ritchie's latest projects include the P250 million Real State Subdivision in Gensan, and soon a multimillion food storage facility in Luzon which is intended to serve storage requirements of food manufacturing companies. It is expected to be the biggest food storage facility in Luzon.

His successes have not gone unnoticed by the business world. Last March 8, 2006 Ritchie received the Entrepreneur of the Year in a socially responsible category award in the annual Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year Awards.

As RD Manufacturing Group president, he was cited for using his private sector skills and creativity to help his community overcome social or environmental problems.

On top of creating employment in General Santos City and nearby areas, the award praised Ritchie's community outreach programs through the RD Foundation. The foundation, which has 50 scholars at present, creates livelihood, housing and education for the people, especially the poor.

Awardees in other categories include Lance Gokongwei of Cebu Pacific, Jonathan Jay P. Aldeguer of Island Souvenirs and Johnlu G. Koa of French Baker Inc. Last year, Ritchie's dad, 67-year-old, Rodrigo Sr., also won in the Entrepreneur of the Year Awards capturing the agri-business category's top honor.

Ritchie says his father was not a usual dad who would play, pamper and give sweets to him and his brothers when they were kids. "Instead, he instilled us with discipline and business acumen," he says.

His dad expected him to manage the business well. Management by objectives, in the spirit of management guru Peter Drucker, is a systematic and organized approach that allows management to focus on achievable goals and to attain the best possible results from available resources.

This includes the demanding task of maximizing the productivity and ensuring the well-being of the 2,400 employees whom Ritchie considers as family.

Married since 2004, Ritchie has a 2-year-old son. Wife Cecile is now six months pregnant.

Despite his tight work schedule, he sees to it that Saturdays and Sundays are strictly family time. At home, he loves fixing things as a hobby, especially cell phones and car accessories. His leisure sport is golf just like his idol, retired Chicago Bulls basketball superstar Michael Jordan.

When the weekend is over, the 32-year-old Ritchie is again ready to pursue his ultimate dream of transforming his company into a multinational enterprise.

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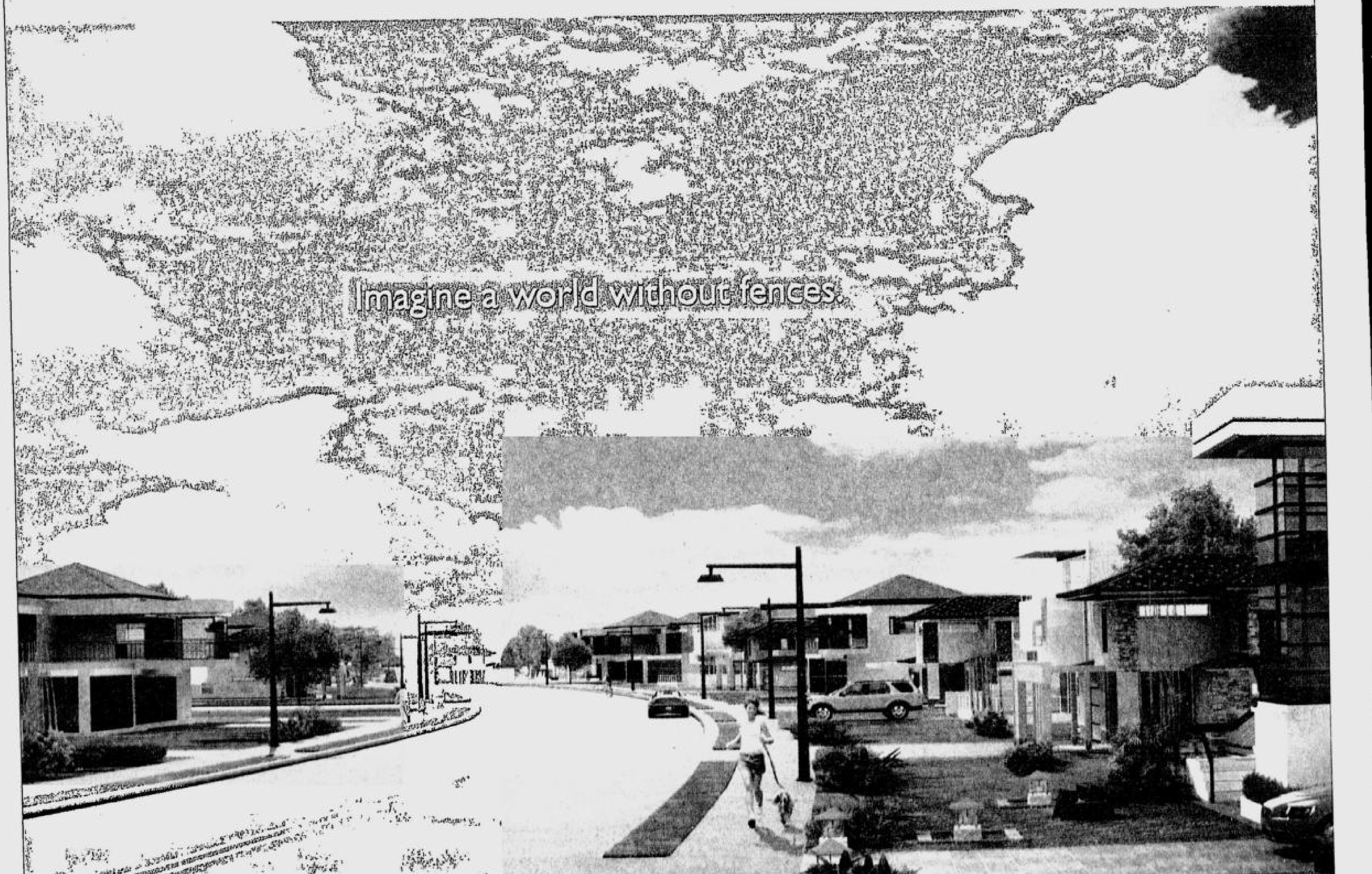

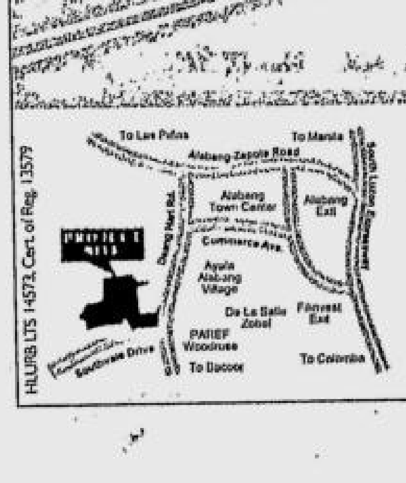

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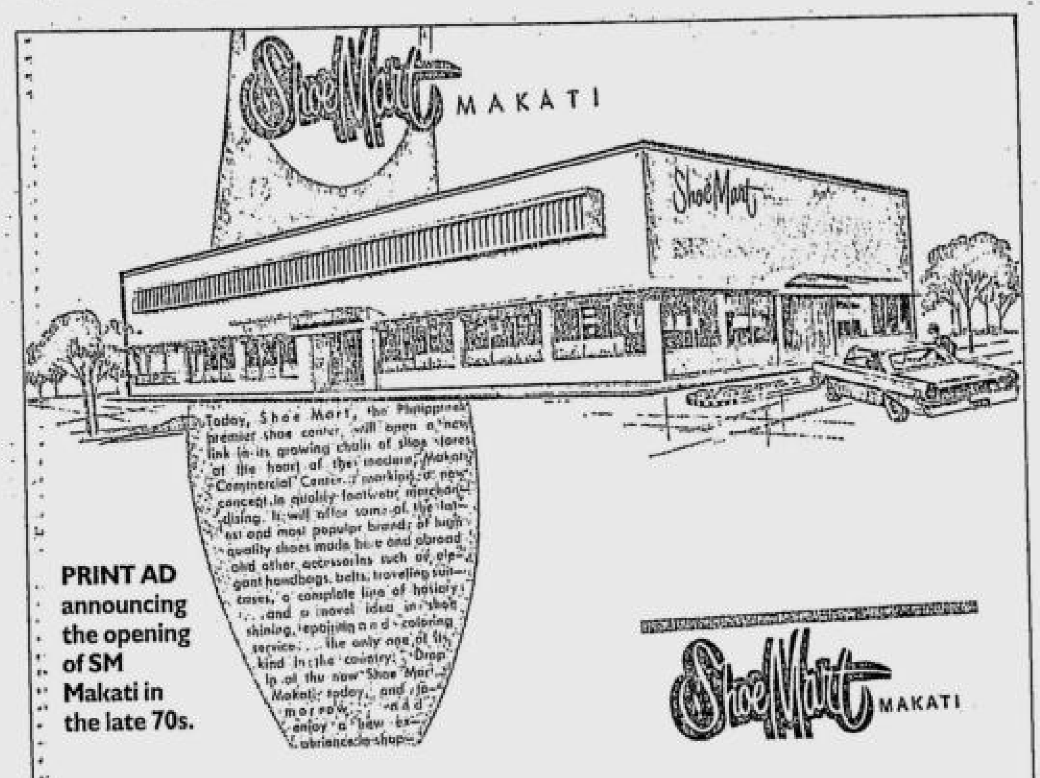
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PRINT AD announcing the opening of SM Makati in the late 70s.

Tracing Henry Sy's steps in selling - I

TAIPAN HENRY SY IS SET TO OPEN THE country's biggest mall in a few weeks. The Business Features does a countdown of the opening by looking back at one of the richest man in the world's early beginnings.

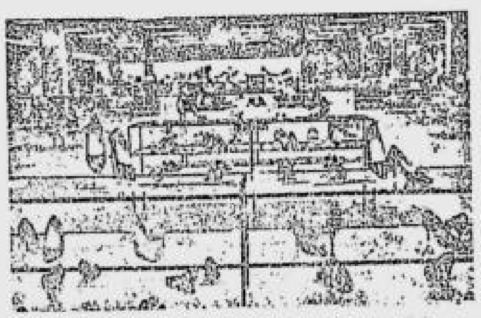
1959—Henry Sy Sr. opened the first Shoemart store along Rizal Avenue in downtown Manila. Sy conceptualized a chain of shoe stores, each characterized by a distinct merchandising layout never before attempted in the country.

1960s—The company expanded its shoe store chain. It was one of the pioneers in the new urban centers when it opened bigger shoe stores at the Makati Commercial Center in 1963 and Cubao in 1967.

1979s—Shoemart marked its shift from a shoe store to a full line department store with SM Echague and later SM Makati in 1975. This was also the time Shoemart became known as SM Shoemart or simply SM, a name that has become synonymous to shopping.

1980s—SM positioned itself for growth, diversifying into the supermarket and appliance store business.

1985—Late 1985 marked the opening of its first shopping mall, SM in North Edsa.



HOW shoes used to be displayed in SM department stores.

"When we constructed our first mall in North Edsa in 1983, the Philippines was in the midst of a debt moratorium, drastic evaluation, and experiencing hyper inflation. The economy's decline was further aggravated by the assassination of Ninoy Aquino. Many bankers depicted our demise because Mr. Sy came from nowhere. He may have a few department stores and shoe stores, but he was not one of the financial heavyweights at that time.

Unaffected by criticism and armed with sheer determination and optimism , he persisted and opened in 1985 with our department store and a few tenants.

Book reveals untold uses of abaca

NAGA CITY—HOT OFF THE PRESS and launched in the Ayala Museum, Makati City last month, a coffeetable book entitled "Abaca Philippines" and written by a Bicolana, reveals untold uses of abaca plant like nutritional and 'cosmetic ones, aside from the multiple applications of its fiber as a raw material for various functional and decorative products.

The author, Lalaine Villafuerte Abonal, takes readers into a journey of excellent photography and easy-to-read narrative on abaca plant—rom its origin, make-up and historical accounts to its end-products.

Supplying 89 percent of the world's total abaca requirement, the Philippines has the strongest natural fiber with the highest tensile strength, which is cultivated in 26 provinces in Bicol, Eastern Visayas and Mindanao.

The book, with a collection of 750 photographs in vibrant colors, was printed in Singapore and packed in 295 pages of glossy paper that capture the depths and hues of the subjects—from the photos of dark green abaca plantation to bright colors of abaca fabrics to earth tones of abaca furniture and fixtures.

Abonal, who earned a degree in Economics at the University of the Philippines and now residing in Pasadena, California, has compiled the dynamic and emerging uses of abaca not only for industrial uses but also as a breakthrough research that identified enzymes present in the plant that are ingredients in cosmetic and skin products and possess dietary value.

The author has also two previous titles to her name, which are: "101 Lessons of A Buying Agent of Foreign Companies" and "IT Outsourcing Opportunities in the Philippines."

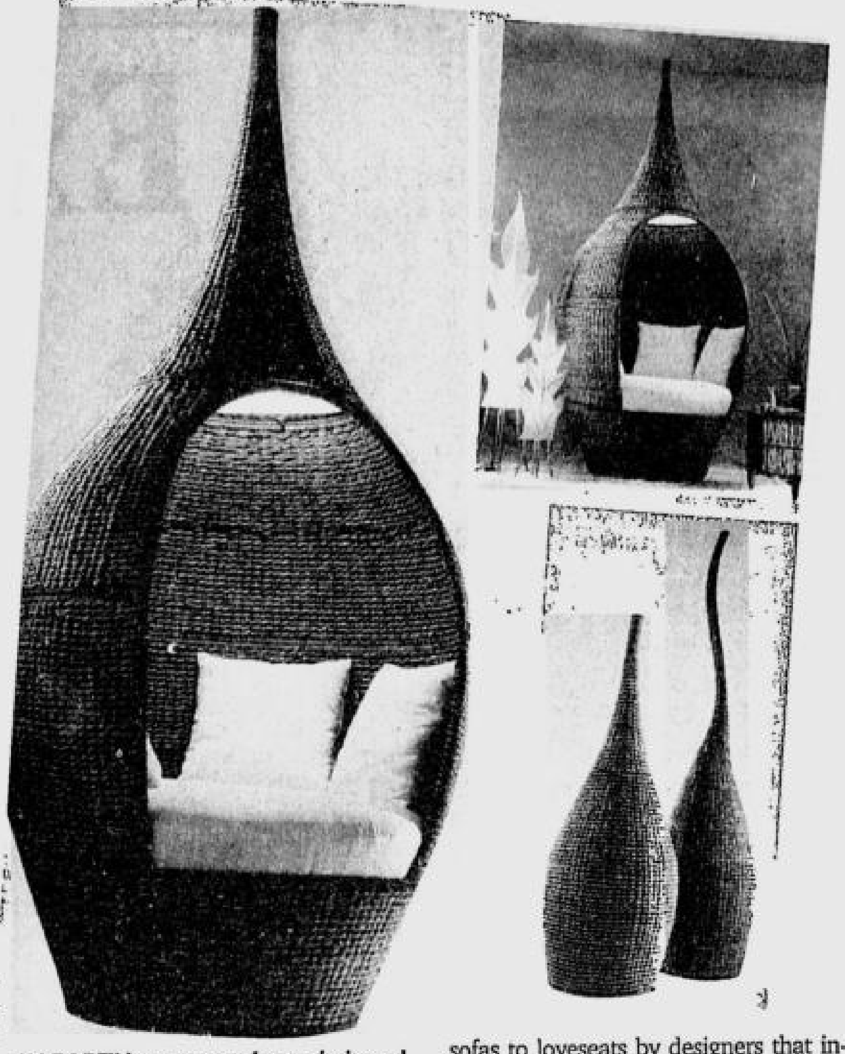
She is a member of the board of Foreign Buyers Association of the Philippines, founder of the company Coconut Republic and president of eAsia Outsourcing & Marketing Services.

Abonal has 12 years of experience sourcing indigenous materials such as abaca, coconut, bamboo and capiz shell.

Abaca Philippines has unraveled several other uses of abaca fiber commonly unnoticed, like its fabric rendition and combinations with other fabrics for dress creation like designs by known Filipiniana designer Patis Tesoro.

The abaca fabric collections of Abaca Philippines are interesting pieces that define the grace of abaca—rendered in an array of formal attires and houte couture.

The coffeetable book shows the elegance of abaca in furniture and fixtures—from settees to lounge chairs, from dividers to coffee tables, and from sofas to loveseats by designers that include An Arte Caña Corp., Diretso, Locsin International, Designs Ligma and Far East Furniture Marketing Corp.



IN EARTH tones, an abaca chair and two decorative giant jars made of hand-woven abaca-bacbac rope are cool, elegant eco-friendly pieces.

"With its distinctive characteristics, abaca is truly one of the most fascinating natural fibers in the world. It is a fiber with an assured future," Abonal writes.

She adds that the coffeetable book has been written in the hope that abaca users, present and prospective, may gain an insight into the nature of the abaca from the plant stage to the finished products.

Included in the coffeetable book is a list of companies and agencies involved in abaca promotions and product development in the Philippines.

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ANTIPOLO CITY

LOT 1 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,912 sqm. F.A.: 514 sqm.
Lot 11 Don Celso S. Tuazon Rd., Valley Golf Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 6,556,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 241 sqm. F.A.: 57 sqm.
Lot 28 Blk 30 Cogeo Vill. Bagong Nayon
Minimum Bid Price : 765,000.00

LOT 3 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 240 sqm. F.A.: 120 sqm.
Lot 15 Blk 47, Road 22, Cogeo Vill. Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price : 1,192,000.00

LOT 4 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 482 sqm.
Lot 11 Blk 2 Parkridge Estate Ph. 5, Sta Cruz
Minimum Bid Price : 1,466,000.00

LOT 5 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 478 sqm.
Lot 23 Blk 3 Parkridge Estate Ph. 5, Sta Cruz
Minimum Bid Price : 1,363,000.00

CALOOCAN

LOT 6 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 287 sqm. F.A.: 30 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 9, Gujo Street, Silanganan Subdivision, Llano
Minimum Bid Price : 707,000.00

LOT 7 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 281 sqm. F.A.: 127 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk 9, Gujo Street, Silanganan Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price : 1,023,000.00

LOT 8 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 30.50 sqm. F.A.: 60 sqm.
Lot 11-D/Blk 9, Gujo St., Silanganan Subd., Deparo
Minimum Bid Price : 392,000.00

LOT 9 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 24.20 sqm. F.A.: 46 sqm.
Lot 11-F/Blk 9, Gujo St., Silanganan Subd., Deparo
Minimum Bid Price : 287,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 300 sqm. F.A.: 166 sqm.
#289 Camarin Rd., Camarin
Minimum Bid Price : 2,559,000.00

LOT 11 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 120 sqm. F.A.: 55 sqm.
(Lot 17-B/Blk 354) 132 Binhagan St., San Jose
Minimum Bid Price : 1,029,000.00

LAS PINAS

LOT 12 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 63 sqm. F.A.: 52 sqm.
L7B10 Santan St., Camella Townhomes, Talon 3
Minimum Bid Price : 832,000.00

LOT 13 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 56 sqm. F.A.: 59 sqm.
Lot 15 Blk 1 Ch Woodsrow Townhomes 3, Aguilar Ave.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,169,000.00

LOT 14 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 803 sqm. F.A.: 405 sqm.
Lot 11 Blk 1, J Racasa St., BF Resort Vill., Las Pinas City
Minimum Bid Price 7,228,000.00

MAKATI

LOT 15 - Condo Unit
F.A.: 48.17 sqm.
Unit Ug-12 Star Centrum Codominium 317 Gil Puyat Ave.
Minimum Bid Price 2,053,000.00

LOT 16 - CONDO
F.A.: 127 sqm.
Unit 333 9Th Floor, Sagittarius Residential Condominium Building I, Dela Costa St.
Minimum Bid Price : 5,284,000.00

LOT 17 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 359 sqm. F.A.: 227 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 2 # 1472 D Olman St., San Miguel Vill
Minimum Bid Price : 8,006,000.00

LOT 18 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 309 sqm. F.A.: sqm.
Lot 7 Blk16 No.1720 Escuela St., Guadalupe
Minimum Bid Price : 6,397,000.00

MALABON

LOT 19 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 494 sqm.
(Lot 7) #18 Interior M.Aquino St., Niugan
Minimum Bid Price : 727,000.00

LOT 20 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 294 sqm. F.A.: 116 sqm.
(Lot 31 Blk 10) 31 R. Diaz St., Marvilla Subd., Dampalit
Minimum Bid Price : 1,236,000.00

MANILA

LOT 21 - Condo Unit
F.A.: 35.20 sqm.
Unit 514 5Th Floor Plaza Towers Condominium Leon Guerrero Ermita
Minimum Bid Price 380,000.00

LOT 22 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 61.63 sqm. F.A.: 340 sqm.
1-B-3C-1-B/ 4041 #1620 G. Tuazon Corner Loreto St. Sampaloc
Minimum Bid Price 3,215,000.00

LOT 23 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 217.40 sqm. F.A.: 80 sqm.
Lot 21-D-4 #2401 Int. 21 Dagohoy, Singalong, Malate
Minimum Bid Price 2,667,000.00

LOT 24 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 325 sqm. F.A.: 145 sqm.
Lot 8 / Blk 1, # 104(New) Alley 1, Dona Filomena Subd., West Crame, San Juan
Minimum Bid Price : 3,816,000.00

LOT 25 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 443 sqm. F.A.: 180 sqm.
Lot 7/Blk 101, Urbino St., Kabayanan, San Juan
Minimum Bid Price : 5,383,000.00

LOT 26 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 47.90 sqm. F.A.: 89 sqm.
Lot 32 Blk 279 1717 F. Varona Near Dandan Sts., Tondo, Manila
Minimum Bid Price : 774,000.00

MARIKINA

LOT 27 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 398 sqm. F.A.: 50 sqm.
L5B1 Rolling Hills Dr., Monterey Hills Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 788,000.00

MUNTINLUPA CITY

LOT 28 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 373 sqm.
(Lot 35-A-2-A) #78 Int. National Road, Putatan
Minimum Bid Price : 2,417,000.00

PARANAQUE

LOT 29 - CONDO UNIT & 12.50 PARKING SLOT
F.A.: 37.50 sqm.
(Unit B2-14-3-J2-4) No. 3-A Papaya Bldg. II, Cluster 14, Westmont Village
Minimum Bid Price : 1,011,000.00

LOT 30 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 502 sqm. F.A.: 236 sqm.
Lot 1-B-3-B-2-A, Int. Of Papa Pio St., Sav 12
Minimum Bid Price : 1,868,000.00

LOT 31 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 296 sqm. F.A.: 155 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk 6, 9-A & 9-B Rosalle St., Mon-El Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,304,000.00

LOT 32 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 500 sqm.
Lot 1-B-3-B-2-B-1-B Interior Of Papa Pio St Sav 12
Minimum Bid Price : 1,318,000.00

LOT 33 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 228 sqm.
Lot 23 Blk 2 Nina Ricci Drive, Savvy 25, Brgy. Marcelo
Minimum Bid Price : 873,000.00

PASAY

LOT 34 - Vacant Lot
L.A.: 404 sqm.
Lot 3, #355 F. Rosario St., Sta. Clara
Minimum Bid Price : 4,848,000.00

LOT 35 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 60.00 sqm. F.A.: 200 sqm.
Lot C-2-1 Unit 5 Hernandez Townhomes, 56 Don Hernandez St., San Rafael
Minimum Bid Price : 2,940,000.00

QUEZON CITY

LOT 36 - 3-STOREY BLDG. ROOFDECK. CARPORT
L.A.: 94 sqm. F.A.: 247 sqm.
L49B15 48 Sto.Nino St. Villa Espana
Minimum Bid Price : 2,596,000.00

LOT 37 - CONDO UNITS
L.A.: sqm. F.A.: 96 sqm.
Unit#S 3 & 4, 3Rd Flr. Heart Of The City Condominium, Sgt. Esguerra Corner Eugenio Lopez St., Brgy. South Triangle
Minimum Bid Price : 3,192,000.00

LOT 38 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 44.50 sqm. F.A.: 80 sqm.
(Lot 58-C/B225) #17-C Bernardo St., Brgy Mariblo, San Francisco Del Monte
Minimum Bid Price : 938,000.00

LOT 39 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 461 sqm. F.A.: 200 sqm.
11- B Eligno St., San Francisco Del Monte
Minimum Bid Price : 6,346,000.00

LOT 40 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 240 sqm. F.A.: 416 sqm.
L6 B2 Remarville Ave., Remarville Subd., Seminary Rd., Bagbag, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price : 3,782,000.00

LOT 41 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 240 sqm. F.A.: 488 sqm.
Lot 3 Quezon St., Dona Faustina Subd., San Bartolome, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price : 2,957,000.00

LOT 42 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 364 sqm. F.A.: 159 sqm.
Lot 13 Blk. 33 Butler St., Tumbok Bronx St., Fairmont I Subd. North Fairview
Minimum Bid Price : 2,953,000.00

LOT 43 - CONDOMINIUM
F.A.: 50.16 sqm.
U3 3/F Rsg Condominium, Ermin Garcia St., Brgy Pinagkaisahan,Cubao
Minimum Bid Price : 933,000.00

LOT 44 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 250 sqm. F.A.: 167 sqm.
Lot 5-C-9 # 11 Private Road 20Th Ave. Brgy Manga Cubao
Minimum Bid Price 3,080,000.00

LOT 45 - CONDO UNIT
F.A.: 63.08 sqm.
Unit 312-B & 312-A, Loyola Heights Condominium, Esteban Abada St., Corner Fabian Dela Rosa St., Brgy. Loyola Heights
Minimum Bid Price 2,101,000.00

LOT 46 - CONDO UNIT
F.A.: 63.08 sqm.
Unit 612-B & 612-A, Loyola Heights Condominium, Esteban Abada St., Corner Fabian Dela Rosa St., Brgy Loyola Heights
Minimum Bid Price : 2,215,000.00

LOT 47 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 481.60 sqm. F.A.: 196 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk. 7 #8 Promenade Lane, Blueridge B Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 9,153,000.00

LOT 48 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 51.50 sqm. F.A.: 109 sqm.
Lot 27-A, Portion Of Lot 27/Blk 33, #1-A (Townhouse Unit) Bakawan St., Veterans Village
Minimum Bid Price : 1,963,000.00

LOT 49 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 617 sqm. F.A.: 461 sqm.
Lot 3 & 4 Blk 1 # 7 Florvil St Delta Village Brgy. Tandang Sora
Minimum Bid Price : 3,448,000.00

LOT 50 - Makeshift Improvement
L.A.: 500 sqm.
Lot 601-A-4-A-5-A Interior Of # 17 Gloria Ii Tandand Sora
Minimum Bid Price : 825,000.00

LOT 51 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 120 sqm.
F.A.: 428 sqm.
23-B / Lch-17 #32 Hyacinth St. Roxas District
Minimum Bid Price : 2,320,000.00

LOT 52 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 526.40 sqm. F.A.: 384 sqm.
Lot 25 & 27/Blk 41, 98 Alley 2 Corner Alley 7, Project 6
Minimum Bid Price : 5,208,000.00

LOT 53 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 208.60 sqm. F.A.: 280 sqm.
5/34 #2 Jose Ma. Hugo St. Cor May Ise St. Manila Project 4
Minimum Bid Price : 3,450,000.00

LOT 54 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 444.30 sqm. F.A.: 377 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk132, #19 Masikap St.. Pinahan
Minimum Bid Price : 8,533,000.00

LOT 55 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 400 sqm. [illegible]
Lot [illegible] St.
Bon[illegible] Pasong Tamo
Minimum Bid Price: 3,079,000.00
WITHDRAWN

LOT 56 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 181 sqm. F.A.: 86 sqm.
Lot 492-Dd-9 # 39 San Ignacio St. Brgy. Gulod Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price : 1,008,000.00

LOT 57 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 418.40 sqm. F.A.: 267 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 23 # 11 Maalindog St. Up Village Diliman
Minimum Bid Price : 6,799,000.00

LOT 58 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,000 sqm.
Lot 1-A Jasmin St., Dona Juana/Gitarni Subd., Brgy. Holy Spirit, Capitol District
Minimum Bid Price : 1,947,000.00

LOT 59 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 192.15 sqm. F.A.: 192 sqm.
Lot 246-B-2-B # 44 Baesa Road Brgy. Baesa Quezon City
Minimum Bid Price : 1,823,000.00

LOT 60 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 869 sqm.
Lot 199-B-3-K, Outskirt Dona Faustina Subd., San Bartolome, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price : 1,217,000.00

LOT 61 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 540 sqm.
L11B1 & L2B5 Kasiyahan St Brgy Holy Spirit
Minimum Bid Price . 1,215,000.00

LOT 62 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 820 sqm.
Lot 19 Blk 10 Sunnyside Hts., Filinvest Homes II, Matandang Balara
Minimum Bid Price : 3,116,000.00

RIZAL

LOT 63 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 206 sqm. F.A.: 151 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk. 21 #23 Rial St. Meralco Village, San Juan, Taytay
Minimum Bid Price : 1,056,000.00

LOT 64 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 319 sqm.
Lot 4043-A-11, Barrio Pantay, Teresa
Minimum Bid Price : 48,000.00

LOT 65 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 5, Canlibot, Brgy. San Gabriel, Teresa
Minimum Bid Price : 36,000.00

LOT 66 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 745 sqm.
Lot 16 Blk 1, Forest Hills Estate Subd. Brgy San Juan
Minimum Bid Price : 1,133,000.00

LOT 67 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,098 sqm.
Lot 33 Blk 10, Forest Hills Estate Subd. Brgy San Juan
Minimum Bid Price : 1,046,000.00

VALENZUELA CITY

LOT 68 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 500 sqm. F.A.: 90 sqm.
(Lot 42-A Pasolo Lolomboy Estate) #39(86) Pasolo Rd, Pasolo
Minimum Bid Price : 1,260,000.00

LOT 69 - TOWNHOUSE UNIT
L.A.: 113 sqm. F.A.: 96 sqm.
(Lot 1) No. 1 Antonette Townhomes I, Pasong Balite St., Marulas
Minimum Bid Price : 664,000.00

NEW PROPERTIES

LOT 70 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 312 sqm.
Lot 26 Blk 222 Phase 8, North Fairview
Minimum Bid Price : 702,000.00

PRIME PROPERTIES

LOT 71 - Land & Building
L.A.: 467 sqm.
8411 Trabajo St. Olympia, Makati City
Minimum Bid Price: 10,745,450.00

LOT 72 - Land & Building
L.A.: 1,696 sqm.
L19 B25 #137 Libra St. Cinco Hermanos Subd , Marikina City
Minimum Bid Price: 15,084,000.00

LOT 73 - Condo/ Townhouse
L.A.: 317.67 sqm.
Unit 30-B Washington Tower, Asiaworld, Brgy. Tambo, Paranaque City
Minimum Bid Price:10,482,750.00

LOT 74 - Condo/ Townhouse
L.A.: 333 sqm.
Unit 30-C Washington Tower, Asiaworld, Brgy. Tambo, Paranaque City
Minimum Bid Price:10,980,000.00

LOT 75 - Condo/ Townhouse
L.A.: 265.11 sqm.
U2201 21/22F Crown Towers, H Dela Costa , Salcedo Village
Minimum Bid Price:11,532,000.00

LOT 76 - Condo/ Townhouse
L.A.: 601.05 sqm.
Penthouse Unit B Washington Tower, Asiaworld, Brgy. Tambo, Paranaque City
Minimum Bid Price:22,110,750.00

LOT 77 - Condo/ Townhouse
L.A.: 363.94 sqm.
Unit C Cleveland Tower, Asiaworld, Brgy. Tambo, Paranaque City
Minimum Bid Price:12,282,750.00

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Greens and grills at the mall

GREENS & GRILLS WILL BE ONE OF THE latest developments in Festival Supermall located at the Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang, Muntinlupa. It follows a dining area cum garden concept with a spacious area for Al Fresco restaurants and a fully landscaped zone that will showcase and sell a variety of plants and flowers to those who have the hobby of growing foliage.

It will be for those who love to dine out and unwind while having a bottle of their favorite brew. It is also envisioned to become a horticulturist's paradise with its flower gardens and verdant greeneries.

Festival Supermall is home to numerous food, retail and service shops and houses more prominent anchor stores like Shopwise Supercenter, Save More Supermarket, Robinson's Department Store and Handyman and Ace Hardware.

It also has a lifestyle home center called TREASURE TROVE, a Food Junction, an Amusements Zone (Pixie Forest and X-site) and a large area (Carousel Court) for holding exhibits and events.

Festival Supermall is located at the Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang, Muntinlupa

Promoting credit responsibility

CREDIT CARDS CARDS HAVE BECOME powerful and convenient tools to manage one's finances if used responsibly. The Credit Card Association of the Philippines, now on its 25th year, remains upbeat as far as the credit card industry and consumer awareness is concerned.

But just what is credit responsibility? Basically, it entails consumer maturity with regards to spending behavior and credit card use. A responsible cardholder borrows within one's means and pays when payment is due.

Moreover, credit responsibility also means being wary of possible fraudulent acts that can be committed against him. The public must realize that the cardholder also bears responsibility as the credit card company to protect the cardholder against theft and fraud. This is why aside from educating consumers on the advantages of maintaining good credit and providing them with security information against theft and fraud, CCAP is also working closely with the proper agencies, especially with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, for consumer protection; Thus the drive to strengthen Republic Act 8484 or the law against fraudulent use of credit cards to apprehend and penalize fraudsters.

'The more you compromise, the more you fall into a hole'

MARIO Silos

THE COUNTRY'S HEALTH Maintenance Organization (HMO) industry faces a problem—it has no image, at least not the kind it deserves to have.

There is very scant information on how it works.

To a lot of people, the HMO industry has become more of a commercial enterprise instead of one aimed at providing health care.

The Health Maintenance Organization Act of 2004 states: an HMO is an "organized system of managing and assuring health care services in a defined geographical area; a pre-agreed set of basic and supplemental health maintenance and treatment services; and has an enrolled group of individuals paying a fixed periodic fee." Moreover, HMO, being a "Managed Care," as described by the similar bill, is "a system of health care delivery that influences utilization and cost of services and measures performance with a goal to deliver quality and cost-effective health care."

IntelliCare, an HMO that claims to be trying to do what the law asks for, has been in the business for 10 years now.

Why would the country's top corporations acquire their services? Human resource department heads, company presidents and other decision-makers first look at reputations when deciding on HMO companies. After all, having an HMO is now widely considered a crucial part in the maintenance of human resources.

IntelliCare claims it is ranked as one of the top three HMOs in the country.

The decision to establish an HMO had a lot to do with a calling. IntelliCare president, Mario Silos says, "You can make a lot of money out of other businesses that don't have real value to other people. But the founding group of this company wanted to make a difference, to be remembered that we had a contribution to society; that we affected people positively and in the process made a decent return to our stockholders."

It wasn't a yellow brick road at the start for IntelliCare. Like most businesses in Asia, they were challenged with the major financial debacle in 1997 when companies faced restructuring, downsizing and even closure.

The economic landscape was in bad shape. IntelliCare stuck by the value of its rates or premiums pre-meltdown. They did not succumb to the market penetration strategy that in order to gain ground, one must be prepared to lose first. The result? They grew at 30 percent per annum consistently.

They did not compromise on the basis of their actuarial assumptions or on the basis of service excellence. "The more you compromise, the more you fall into a hole," Silos asserts. They were a toddler by industry standards and thus hard-put to build a reputation. Anyone,knows one doesn't build a good business reputation overnight. It usually takes a remarkable amount of effort, hard work and perseverance.

They did not go for big name clients at once. It was hard, after all.

In its younger days, in-house sales were more significant than broker-generated sales. But IntelliCare eventually turned the tide. Past the economic meltdown and growing consistently, brokers started to bring in companies such as Dell, Coca-Cola and other major accounts for bidding.

The company realizes that the initial 10 years was just spent to lay the foundation, to establish a reputation and surpass a critical mass base required for long-term stability. In the next 10 years the firm aims to achieve market leadership both in quantity and quality of service.

And the company knows they have to innovate to continue into the next decade.

They are now looking into tapping new markets, those which do not yet have the comfort and convenience of having their own HMO to give them the security of health because of financial limitations.

In the future, the company wants to serve the millions in the nation's workforce. IntelliCare knows that the concept of the HMO has not yet fully developed and that it still has more than enough room for growth. Health care after all, is a function of demography and the Filipino population is definitely maturing.

One of its notable innovations is the recently launched Pamilya Care program designed for OFWs and the families they leave behind here.

Silos asserts that HMOs should be a bridge to a point where health services should be accessible and affordable to all.

But it has to be a bridge that is sturdy.

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6 months	3.25%	3.38%	3.44%	3.75%
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KING JAMES
AUCTION CALENDAR

ON-SITE AUCTION
SITE : SAN ISIDRO LABRADOR INDUSTRIAL, BRGY. BALUBARAN, MALINTA, VALENZUELA CITY, M.M. (BESIDE SAN ISIDRO LABRADOR PARISH CHURCH)
REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATES: MAY 1-2, 2006, 9:00AM-5:00PM
AUCTION DATE: MAY 3, 2006 (WED) @ 10:30 AM
CONSISTING OF GENERATORS, DRY-TYPE TRANSFORMERS 500KVA, BOILERS, FILTER PRESS, TANKERS, CYLINDERS, PANEL BOARDS, WINCH, GATE/CHECK VALVES, ENGINES, INDUCTION MOTORS, TOLEDO SCALE, INDUSTRIAL FANS, RECTIFIER, HD ICE MAKER, WHEEL BALANCING EQUIPMENT, ASSORTED SCRAP METALS, ETC.
REFUNDABLE / CONSUMABLE DEPOSIT OF P20,000

ON-SITE AUCTION
SITE : UNISOL INDUSTRIES AND MANUFACTURING CORP. BO. MAKILING, CALAMBA, LAGUNA (NEAR YAZAKI-TORRES)
REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATES: MAY 3-4, 2006, 9:00AM-5:00PM
AUCTION DATE: MAY 5, 2006 (FRI) @ 10:30 AM
ALL BUILDINGS FOR DEMOLITION
SPINNING MILL BLDG., CIRCULAR KNITTING BLDG., FINISHING MILL BLDG., ENGINEERING AND PRODUCTION/ MANAGEMENT CENTER BLDG.,PAPER CONE BLDG., PERSONNEL, CANTEEN AND LOCKER BLDG., BONDED WAREHOUSE, STAFF HOUSE and ANNEX, ELEVATED WATER TANK AND PUMP HOUSE.
CONSISTING OF GI SHEETS, STEEL TRUSSES, I-BEAMS, STEEL GATES, ROLL-UPS, WOODEN TRUSSES, ELEVATED WATER TANK 190,000L CAP., PRESSURE TANKS,
REFUNDABLE / CONSUMABLE DEPOSIT OF P25,000

PULILAN WAREHOUSE AUCTION
LOCATION: 333 OLD NATIONAL HIGHWAY, STO.CRISTO, PULILAN, BULACAN
REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATES: MAY 5-6, 2006, 9:00AM-5:00PM
AUCTION DATE: MAY 7, 2006 (SUN) @ 10:30 AM
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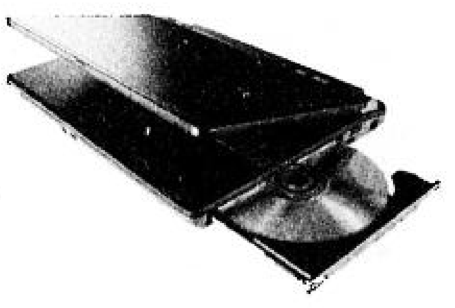

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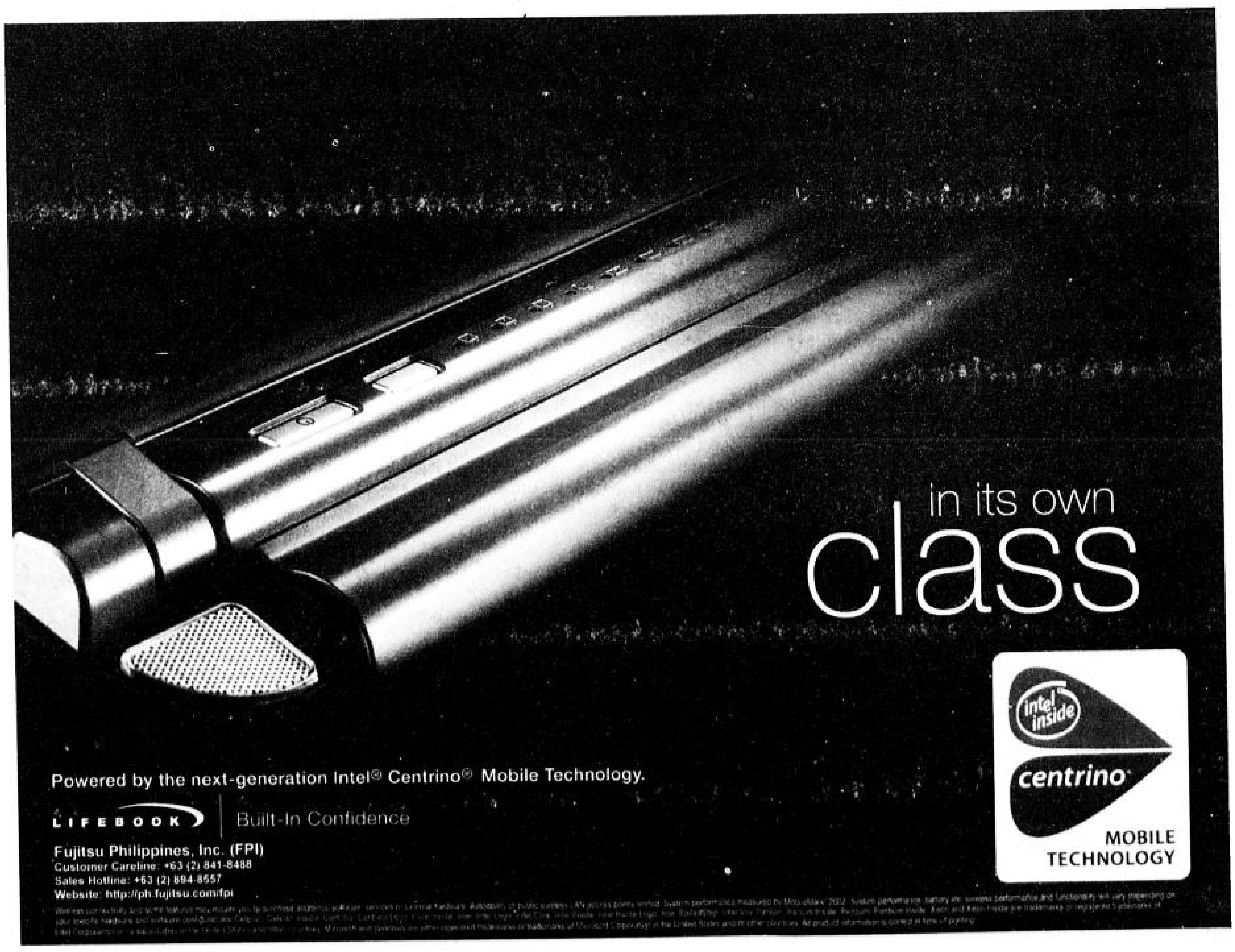
Fujitsu recommends Windows® XP Professional.



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CONVERGYS

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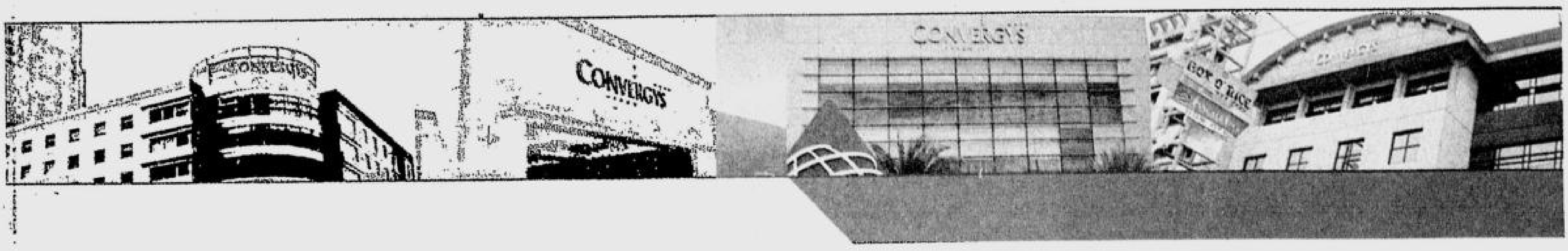

CONVERGYS CORPORATION MAINTAINS INDUSTRY LEAD WITH CUSTOMER CARE PROGRAMS

The world's largest outsourced customer care company has become one of the world's most awarded global firms. Convergys Corporation (NYSE: CVG) was recently recognized as one of America's Most Admired Companies for the sixth consecutive year by Fortune Magazine. Convergys also just received the Philippine Export Processing Zone Authority's award as a Most Outstanding Employer. Accolades aside, the company believes in focusing on what makes it truly great: its people.

From its first hires on March 15, 2003, Convergys has grown from 800 employees to nearly 8,000 professionals in the Philippines alone, after just three years of operations. Its network of contact centers include facilities in Makati, Quezon City, Ortigas Center, Alabang, Cebu City, and a recruitment center in U-Belt, Manila, the only off-site recruitment facility of its kind in the industry.

"The Philippines plays a very important role in our overall global strategy," stated Convergys Executiv e Vice President, Clint Streit, during a recent visit to Manila. "We continue to plan for our expansion for the remainder of this year and the next. In fact, we will soon inaugurate our main office for the Philippines along Ayala Avenue in Makati City."

As with all its global offices, Convergys entrusts its key leadership positions to the country's nationals. Convergys provides these highly talented individuals with the same opportunities as their international counterparts. For example, the Convergys Vice President and Country Manager for the Philippines is Marife Zamora, who accepted the Philippine Export Processing Zone Authority's award along with Streit at a ceremony at Malacanang Palace.

(R-L) President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo with Convergys Executive Vice President, Clint Streit, Country Manager, Marife Zamora and Assets Director, Jojo Lloren.

Convergys offers excellent skills development and training programs for its employees, opportunities for career development, and personal growth that other outsourcing companies are hard pressed to duplicate. Employees are not merely trained for regular day-to-day operations but inculcate the company's values of unparalleled client satisfaction, teamwork, respect for the individual, diversity, shareowner's trust, corporate citizenship, and integrity.

From Team Leader Development Training to the Management Development Program, Convergys in vests heavily in seminars, workshops, and various other programs that will help an individual fully realize his or her potential. Convergys maintains a Personal Development Center website for team leaders, operations managers, and top executives to access additional training materials anywhere, anytime. The Convergys CI (Continuous Improvement) Portal fosters continuous improvement among employees as they are able to share innovations throughout the organization for transforming the business positively---for the company and for its clients.

Managers also embark on the Business Consulting Learning Series to better understand the client's business and become proactive consultants. Meantime, employees get the first chance to apply for openings within the company and move their careers forward through the Building from Within Program.

To ensure that Convergys trainers meet international quality standards, trainers are sent to the US and other countries for technology transfer. Since 2003, CVG has invested more than P10M to send its Filipino trainers to the US, Canada and India for skills transfer. Filipino national Malu Ros began as a manager in Convergys but today works as Director for Global Communication and Culture Training. The former Cebu-based English teacher now works from Convergys' Jacksonville, Florida office but also flies to other Convergys locations across the globe to train others in effective cross-cultural communication skills.

Convergys agents service customers around the world in various industries: telecommunications, retail, financial services, healthcare, and technology. The work environment is conducive to professional, efficient service with the latest in state-of-the-art automated customer care technologies.

Facilities also include an employee lounge, cyber desk area, and 24-hour clinic with doctor support and immediate ambulance assistance. Employees also receive first aid and self-defense training. Some centers also offer free parking for employees and 24/7 concessionaires in the building such as coffee shops and restaurants. Each facility also has an Incident Command Team and Emergency Management Team ready to assist employees in times of crisis and emergencies. In cases of transportation problems from strikes, typhoons, or floods, Convergys also extends transportation assistance service.

Not to forget the fun part of working in Convergys, an Employee Engagement Team helps create camaraderie and fun activities. Theme-based decorations may appear in workstations and family days, holidays, and monthly celebrations are commemorated.

Building employee relations is undertaken through recognition programs and venues that keep communication lines open across the organization. In the Employee Pulse and Employee Commitment Surveys undertaken in all Convergys locations worldwide, Convergys employees in the Philippines scored the highest employee satisfaction rate.

Convergys has made Focus Group Discussions among employees and even clients a regular affair to gather feedback and address other issues. These candid roundtable discussions have led to improving communication at different levels of the organization.

Convergys also has the Power of One Recognition Program where specially designed cards that feature the company's seven values are exchanged among peers and their managers. A part of the card is given to the recipient's manager and further strengthens relations between employees and their supervisors. The cards are tracked, and recognition is given to those who use and receive recognition through the program. Over 11,000 Power of One cards have been exchanged since the program began in 2003.

The Program Performance Management 100 features a score card and agent dashboard where improvements in performance are rewarded.

The CI Yahoo! Awards recognize the support and dedication of employees to Convergys' culture of Continuous Improvement.

Convergys Philippines also has the General Manager's Award to recognize professional performance, commitment, and integrity to the work ahead. Since 2003, there have been 30 recipients of this award.

Employee gatherings through the Quarterly Linkage Call, the Leaders Summit, and the Team Leader Town Hall helps communicate company results, initiatives, and strategy to various employee sectors. Aside from the corporate-wide Intranet with company news and information, Convergys has electronic publications plus a Philippine newsletter, Synergy.

Convergys is currently interviewing applicants at all of its Philippine contact centers as well as its recruitment center located in Manila's University Belt. Persons interested in employment with Convergys should call 8577760 or email their resumes to philippinesrecruitment@convergys.com.

Sunday LifeStyle

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)
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Budding
Leonardos and Amorsolos

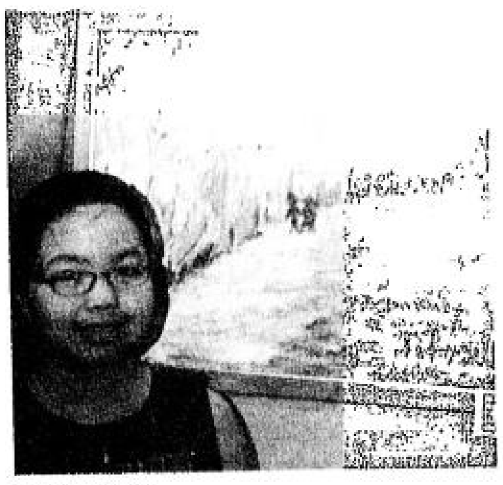
KIDS HAVE A PECULIAR WAY of seeing that which is fresh and unadulterated. In their artistic hands, the drab and predictable world becomes surprising and adventurous.

The unique colors and ingenious lines of artistic children are on display in "As Our Children See It: Art from the Eyes, Hearts, and Hands of Children," ongoing until May 14, Mother's Day, at Le Soufflé restaurant at Rockwell.

The show is the brainchild of Le Soufflé chef Jessie Sincioco and Sheila Ramos, whose

BUDDING/ C2

COOL artists Noah, Liam and Lucas Ramos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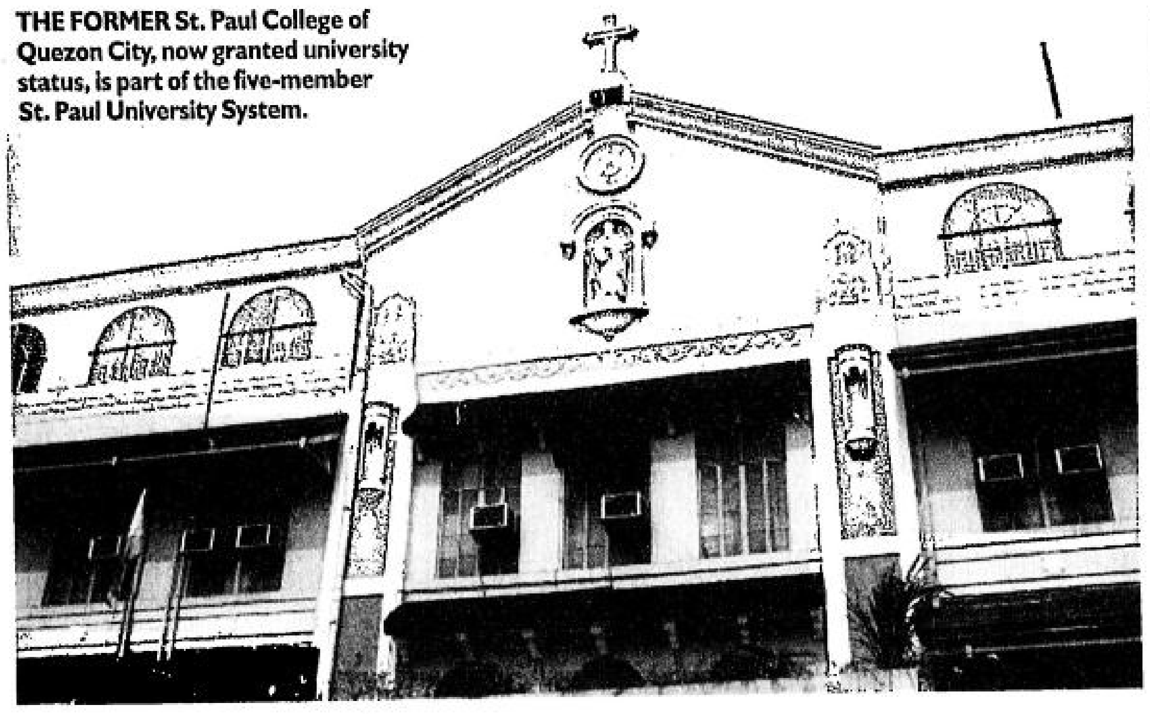


THE FORMER St. Paul College of Quezon City, now granted university status, is part of the five-member St. Paul University System.

ST. PAUL received its University System status in 2004. Present were Dr. Catherine Castañeda, CHED-OPS director; Dr. Judith Bunye, president, Harris Memorial School; Dr. Roger Perez, CHED executive director; Dr. Nilo Rosas, CHED-SPUS evaluation committee; Dr. Ma. Cristina Padolina, CHED commissioner; Sr. Mary Magdalen Torres, SPC-provincial superior, and presidents of the SPUS constituent units—Sr. Teresita Bayona, SPC-Surigao; Sr. Remy Angela Junio, SPC-Tuguegarao and SPU system chancellor; Sr. Suzette Hilaria Bautista, SPC-Manila; Sr. Carolina Agravante, SPC-Iloilo; and Sr. Nilda Masirag, SPC-Dumaguete

60 years of first-class education

EVERY HIGH-SCHOOL SENIOR must know that the best college education can only come from a reputable university. But there is an even better option: a university system, a network of many schools working in partnership with one another toward improved delivery of services, higher academic standards and more capable college graduates.

St. Paul University QC (SPUQC), headed by its president Sr. Nintha Lucilla Baldado, SPC, is one of the most respected academic institutions in the country, now marking its 60th year after its inception as St. Paul College of Quezon City.

Together with the other member schools of the university system, it continually strengthens its Catholic character, serving the Church and society by being an outstanding leader of transformation.

Aside from SPUQC, the other Paulinian schools comprising the university system are St. Paul University Philippines in Tuguegarao City, the mother university, St. Paul University in Dumaguete, St. Paul University in Iloilo, St. Paul University Manila and St. Paul University in Surigao.

St. Paul University System recently celebrated its second anniversary with the theme "Sharing in the Paulinian Identity."

It must be noted that a college or university may be made part of a university system only if at least 50 percent of its tertiary program offerings have Level II accreditation by the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities.

SPUQC has Level III accreditation for all its programs under the College of Liberal Arts and Commerce—proof that the school meets accepted quality standards for education.

So what are the advantages of studying in a university system? Its complementary, system-wide policies and procedures offer a range of benefits, enabling the fulfillment of bigger goals, such as the following:

Faculty sharing

Sr. Lucilla points out that this is one way in which resources are shared between member schools of a university system. Simply put, faculty sharing means a teacher from one member school can also teach in another. The idea is for a teacher or professor to instill the same set of skills, knowledge and competencies in a broader range of students across the different member schools.

"This works perfectly for us because St. Paul University teachers are all highly trained and competent," Sr. Lucilla explains.

Program sharing

A program owned by one campus can be offered in another campus by virtue of the program sharing agreement among the SPU System members. Example, SPUP is currently authorized to offer an MA in Education major in Guidance and Counseling. However, enrollees may take the course at the extension classes held at SPUQC.

Easy cross-enrollment

Students may easily cross-enroll between members of the university system. As such, a particular subject taken in one member school is easily credited in another so that the cross-enrollee does not have to take the subject again in her new school to complete her course requirements.

Also, according to Sr. Lucilla, the cross-enrollee will have no problem adjusting to the new environment because the educational standards and systems are similar. Even school policies complement each other. Because of the faculty sharing system, students also become familiar with faces of teachers from other schools, making cross-enrollment a more pleasant experience.

In the case of St. Paul University System, it also helps that all six universities have uniformly clean, well-maintained and safe surroundings conducive to learning.

Strengthened partnerships with other institutions

The schools have tie-ups with other academic institutions both here and abroad for purposes such as further training for its graduates and the like. On the drawing board is a bridging program with two colleges in Canada, geared toward providing advanced training to nursing graduates to equip them with skills and competencies required for overseas jobs.

These collaborative efforts are definitely beneficial to students. Combine this with the schools' modern facilities and up-to-date curriculum and you have the perfect venue for the intellectual, social, moral and spiritual development of young Filipinos.

Autonomous status

St. Paul University Quezon City was also granted autonomous status by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and an ISO 9001:2000 certification. The ISO 9001:2000 is an international quality standard awarded by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) to any organization for the efficiency of its operations.

"However, we will not rest on our laurels," Sr. Lucilla says. "As a university system, we are given opportunities to improve our curriculum, instruction, research projects, community services and other resources. We are very much committed to maximizing these opportunities in order to continue providing quality education to our students."

In the local academic community, St. Paul University System offers excellent programs in Nursing (proven by number of graduates who pass the board yearly), Mass Communications and Hotel and Restaurant Management (HRM), among others.

The Quezon City campus, in fact, continues to break new ground in Paulinian education. In 2004, the all-girl college campus added the pre-school department, open to both boys and girls, followed by the elementary department in 2005. For school year 2006-2007, it will finally open its doors to male college applicants for its Nursing and HRM programs to enable more young people to benefit from its quality of education.

EDUARDO, Jet, Bea, Abigail and Estelita Dy with Le Soufflé chef Jessie Sincioco

AS THE BUDDING artists look on, guests of honor Virgie Ramos and Socorro Ramos cut the ribbon to open the exhibit ongoing at Le Souffle at the Rockwell clubhouse.

Budding Leonardos and Amorsolos

From page C1

three sons are among the exhibiting young artists. "Our children, nieces and nephews love drawing," said Ramos, "so we thought of this exhibit to provide a venue to display and share their art."

Along the way, the organizers invited other kid-artists to join the exhibit. The result is a nearly sold-out show, and the not-too-surprising revelation that kids paint the darndest things.

Here's a rundown of our budding Leonardos and Amorsolos:

Liam Ramos ("Froggy"), Noah Ramos ("The Good and Great Caterpillar"), Lucas Ramos ("A Zebra in the Meadow"), Andrea Soriano ("My Favorite Pet"), Nicole Soriano ("Purple House and Orange Palm"), Bea Gomez ("Flowers"), Kelsea Nicolas ("The Animal Farm"), AJ Pineda ("Mountain Site"), Joaquin Amante ("Sunset"), Juliana Amante ("Point of View"), Justine Amante ("Serendipity"), Tiffany Uy ("Tweaked Chair"), Mika Limcaoco ("Unexplainable"), Danielle Limcaoco ("My Secret Garden"), Myka Umali ("Under the Sea"). The other kiddie artists are Meggie Cheock, Robilyn Dychiao and Katie and Kim Go.

JOAQUIN Amante

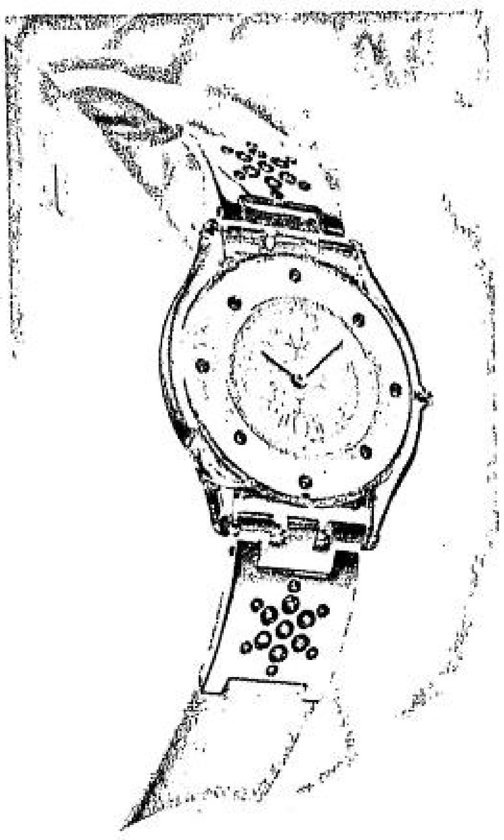
KATIE Go

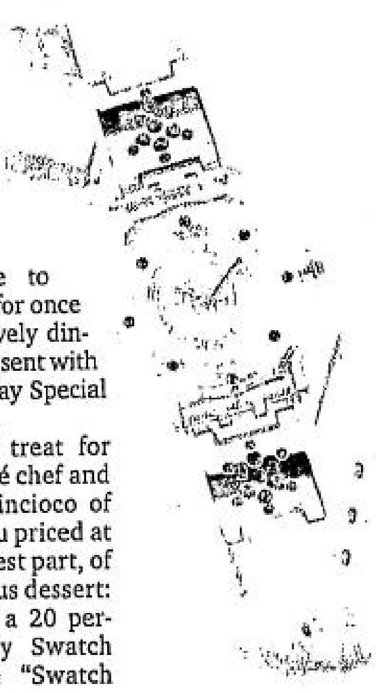
AJ Pineda

ODETTE, Myka and Loy Umali

PHOTOS, RUDY ESPERAS

Serve Mom a watch special





WHY NOT completely spoil your mother for once and return some of the care and love she has given you? You won't be alone in your mission—Swatch is here to help. Save your words for once by treating her to a lovely dinner and giving her a present with the Swatch Mother's Day Special at Le Soufflé, Rockwell.

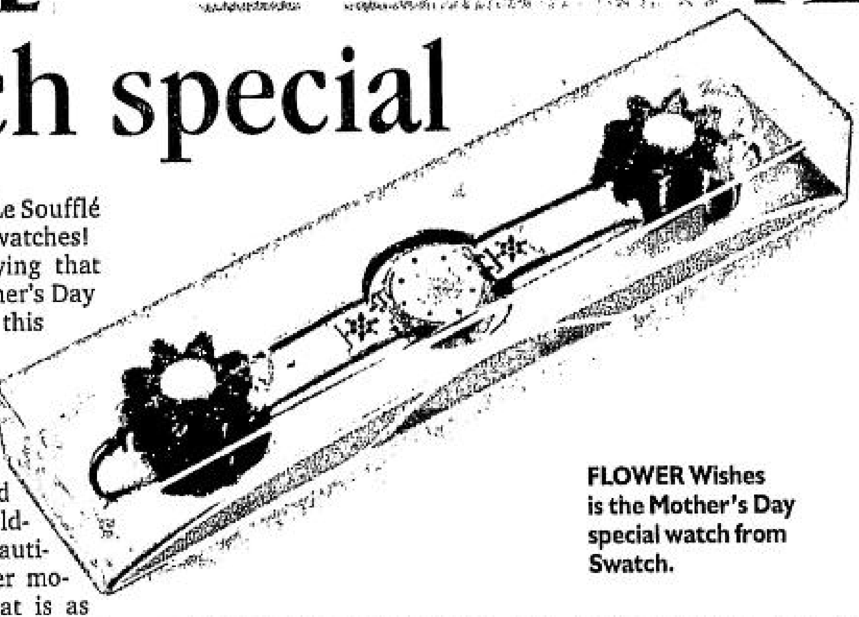
"It's a once-a-year treat for Moms!" says Le Soufflé chef and Swatch user Jessie Sincioco of the seven-course menu priced at P1,000++. And the best part, of course, is a scrumptious dessert: a Swatch surprise of a 20 percent-discount on any Swatch purchased from the "Swatch Loves Mom corner" at Le Soufflé and a raffle of Swatch watches!

It goes without saying that there is a Swatch Mother's Day Special watch again this year.

And for the first time, it is a Skin watch. Beige-colored leather, chrome steel, and a shimmering golden dial with a beautiful stylized flower motif. A creation that is as slim as a rose leaf, set with several amber-colored crystals and comes in exquisite special packaging in the form of a tea-light candle holder. A Swatch perfect for mothers, for they deserve only the very best.

As any restaurant will tell you, Mother's Day is the biggest holiday next to Valentine's Day. It's always a full house for lunch and dinner on Mother's Day, attests Sincioco, so make your reservations now! Call Le Soufflé at 4502993.

Swatch is available in Swatch stores located in Glorietta 4 Ayala Center Makati and SM Megamall Building B; and Gift Gate outlets in Glorietta, SM Megamall, SM Manila, Alabang Town Center, Robinsons Place Ermita, Ali Mall, Quezon Avenue, Greenhills. Swatch is exclusively distributed by Gift Gate Inc.



FLOWER Wishes is the Mother's Day special watch from Swatch.

Modern intimates for the woman of today

The modern woman exudes confidence and passion in every aspect of her life. She knows how to work her way up to achieve career success, yet never loses her focus on what matters most at the end of the day.

For today's women who lead busy yet fulfilling lives, **Playtex** from Sara Lee Direct Selling Philippines Inc., one of the country's leading direct selling companies, introduces its line of stylish yet high-quality brassieres designed to give women the confidence and comfort they need as they face everyday chaallenges in life.

For the corporate woman who's driven to get things done ***Playtex Cami Bra with Underwire*** is a versatile bandeau-style bra with underwire for shaping and full support, and detachable straps that you can wear as a regular bra, crisscross, halter, one-strap or no straps. Its lace front spells perfection when worn under sheer tops or even under jackets and blazers. Available in sizes 32A/B to 36A/B in colors flesh and black.

Wear any corporate outfit that catches your fancy with ***Playtex Five-Way Bra,*** which lets you wear it in five lovely ways – the regular two-straps, strapless, halter, racerback, or one-strap. Made with comfortable, non-slip elastics, its underwire firmly holds and supports your bosoms even without the straps. Its smooth fiberfill cups have inner cotton fabric for extreme comfort while its luxurious lace covers the entire front for a look of feminine elegance. Available in sizes 32A to 36B in colors flesh and black.

Playtex Five-Way Bra

During power lunches with the bosses, ooze with sassiness while getting the support you need underneath with ***Playtex Heavenly Bodice,*** with underwire that gives your bosom good shape and support, and adjustable straps that provide maximum comfort. This mesh bra is slightly padded for enhanced shaping and has cotton lining for a cool and comfortable feeling. Available in sizes 32A/B to 36A/B in color brown with beige trimmings.

Be at your sexiest during cocktails with ***Playtex Simply Gorgeous,*** an underwired bra designed with lush, romantic stretch lace all over the cups and side panels, and has lightly padded cups that give just the right lift and firmness to your bosoms. It also has soft inner cotton fabric for a comfy feel while its front closure makes it so convenient to wear. Available in sizes 32A/B to 36A/B in color flesh.

At parties, be sensationally pretty with ***Playtex Ultima***, an underwired bra with lavished with lace on cups, straps and sides for an elegant feel. This bra has special underwires for gentle bust support and smooth fiberfill cups with inner cotton fabric for extra comfort. Available in sizes 32A/B to 36A/B in color pink.

Playtex Ultima

Keep your energy level high and still exude with comfort at home with ***Playtex Smooth Complement***, the seamless bra that complements your wardrobe effortlessly. Its smooth seamless cups give a shapelier outline under body-fit clothes, and create the cleavage that you desire with its underwires that gently push up your breasts. Available in sizes 32A/B to 36A/B in color flesh.

During family outings, look and feel good with ***Playtex Side Sensation,*** which has striped side and back panel that provide extra smoothness to your skin. Its seamless soft cup offers full support while its soft inner cotton fabric delivers the comfort you need in every move. Available in sizes 32A/B to 36A/B in colors ivory and black.

Keep the flame of your love alive with ***Playtex Timeless Form,*** the classic, full-figure and full-support M-frame bra which has wide panels for additional support and cotton lining that leaves a cool, comfy feeling. Its floral lace also has shimmery satin and accented with ribbonette at the center that lets you feel so feminine and sexy. Available in sizes 34A/B/C to 36A/B/C, 38B/C and 40B/C in color flesh.

With Playtex modern intimates, any contemporary woman can now look and feel confident, supported and sexy in the workplace and even at home.

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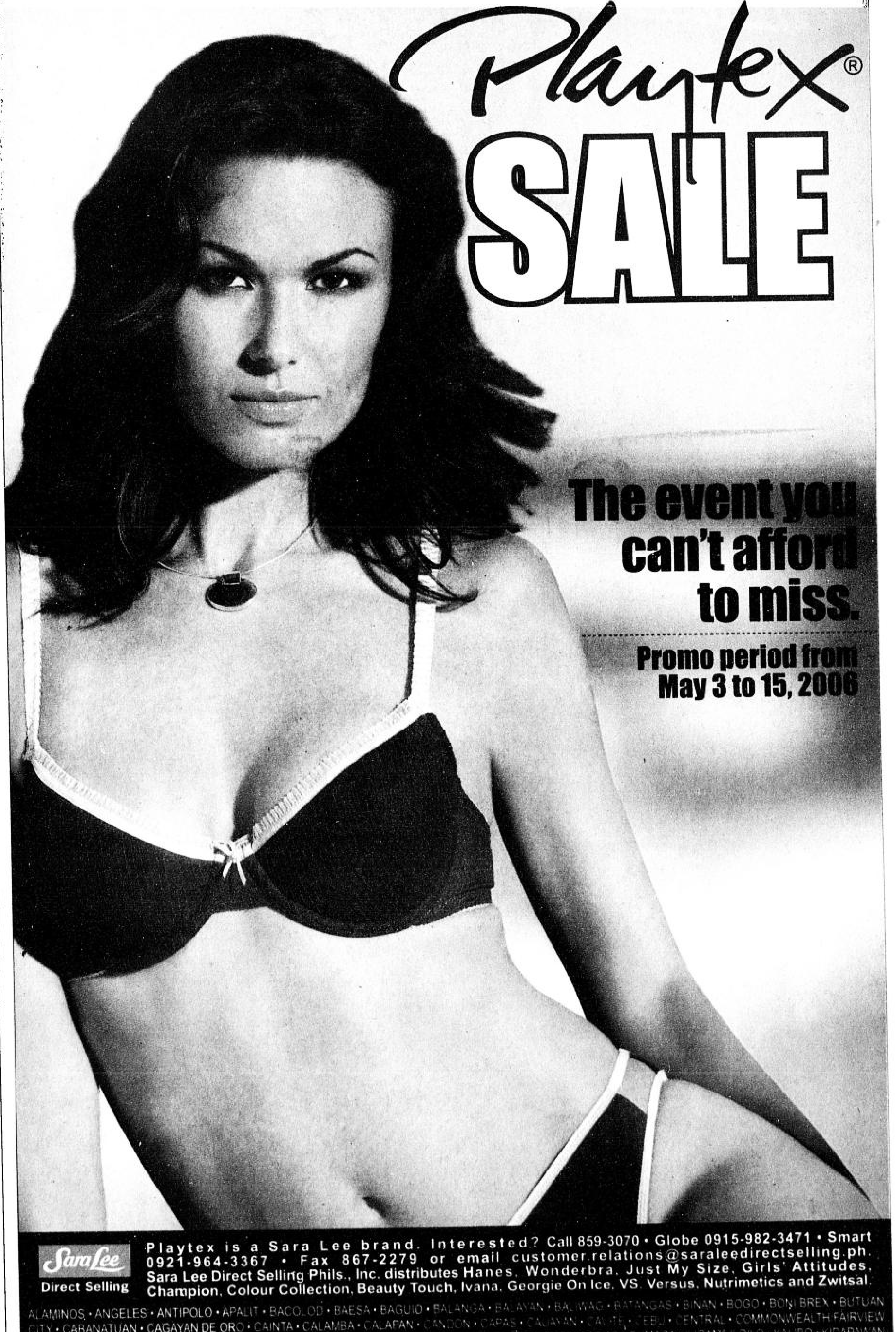

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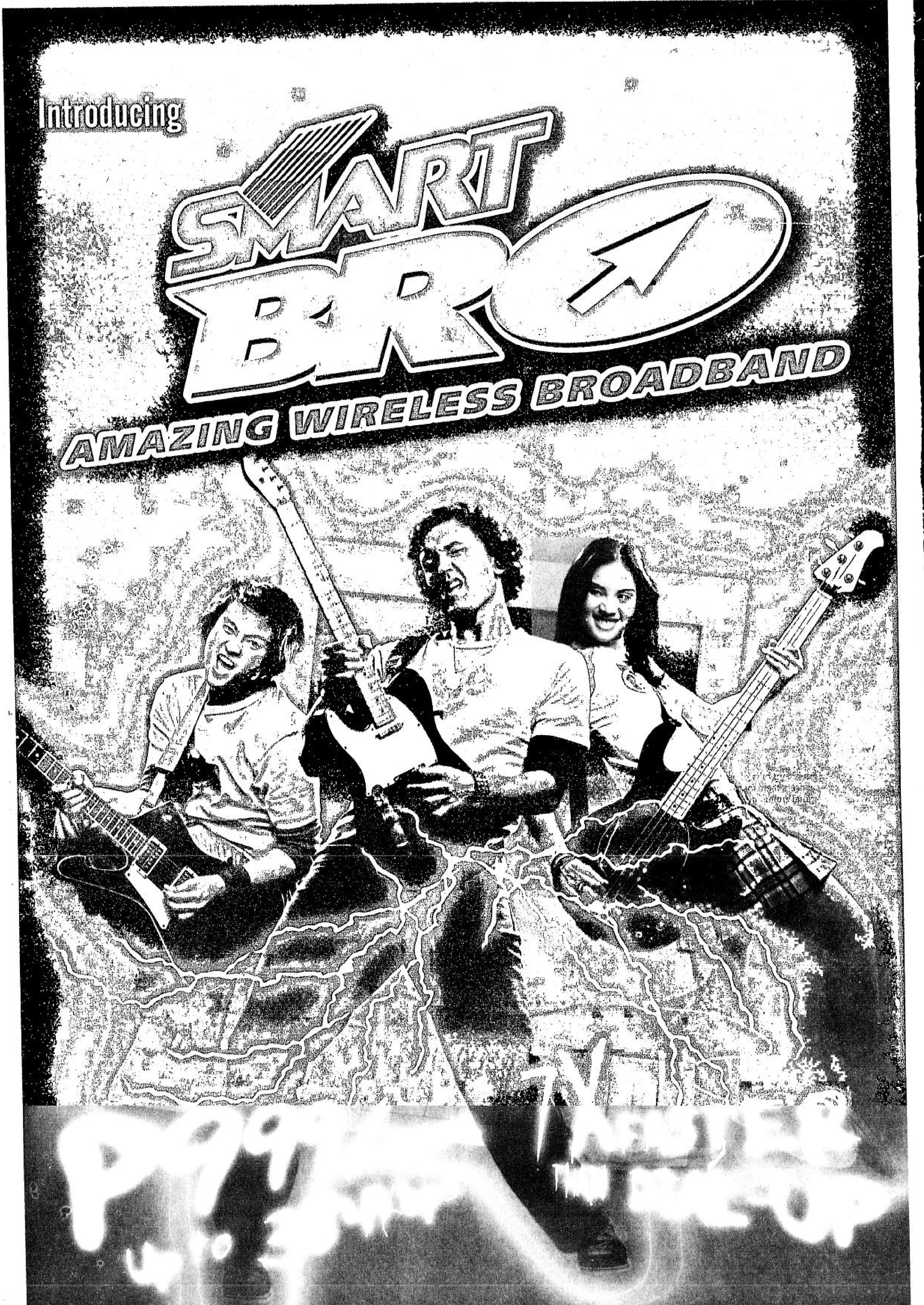

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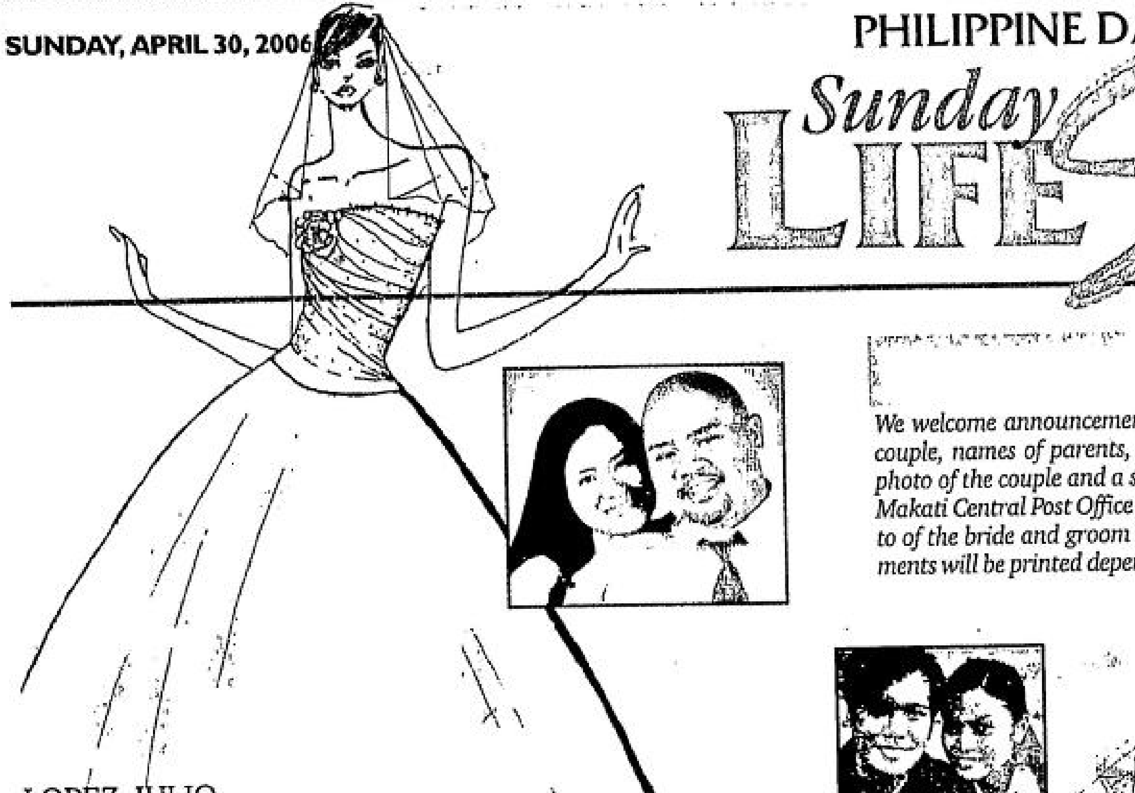
Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER*, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.*



LOPEZ-JULIO

Ernest Michael Lopez, son of engineer **Ernesto** (deceased) and Dr. **Minda (née Mauban) Lopez**, will marry **Mary Ann Julio**, daughter of **Ernesto Julio** and the former **Cresencia Gaega**, on May 27, 3 p.m., at Our Lady of Annunciation Parish Church, Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City. Reception follows at St. Charbel Executive Village clubhouse, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

The bride will wear a two-piece strapless gown in layers of soft chiffon over duchess satin lining designed by **Lemuel Panganiban**.

Event specialist **Alec M. Santos** of Events Plus will be coordinating the wedding event.

CENTENO-BRAVO

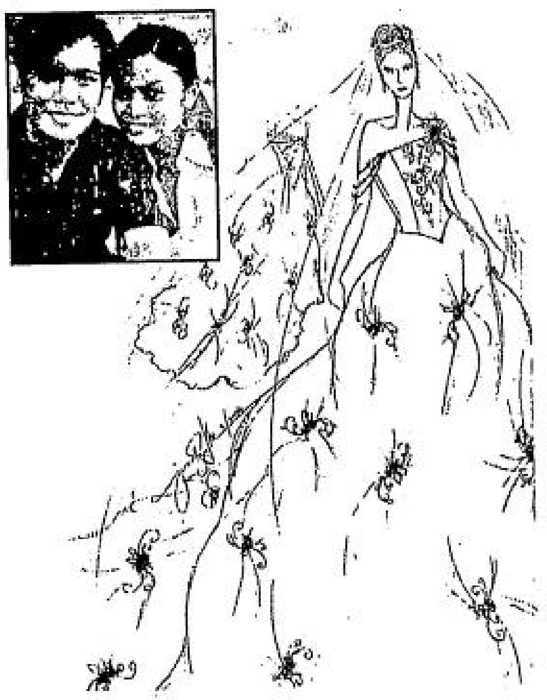
Mark Anthony A. Centeno, son of engineer **Porfirio** and **Flordeliza Centeno**, will wed **Rowena E. Bravo**, daughter of PAF (GSC) LTC **Joe** and **Fe Bravo** on May 8 at the Manila Cathedral. Wedding reception will be held at the Maynila Ballroom, Manila Hotel. **Leonard Co** designed the wedding gown.

SEE-CHONG-MUÑOZ

Will B. See and **Eileen Chong-Muñoz** will wed on May 14, 8 a.m., at the Manila Metropolitan Cathedral, Intramuros, Manila. Reception will follow at 1 p.m. at Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan.

ONG-LIM

Andrew Ong and **Cherrie Lim** will wed on May 14, 1 p.m., at San Sebastian Church in Manila. The bride's gown was designed by **Edwin Tan**.

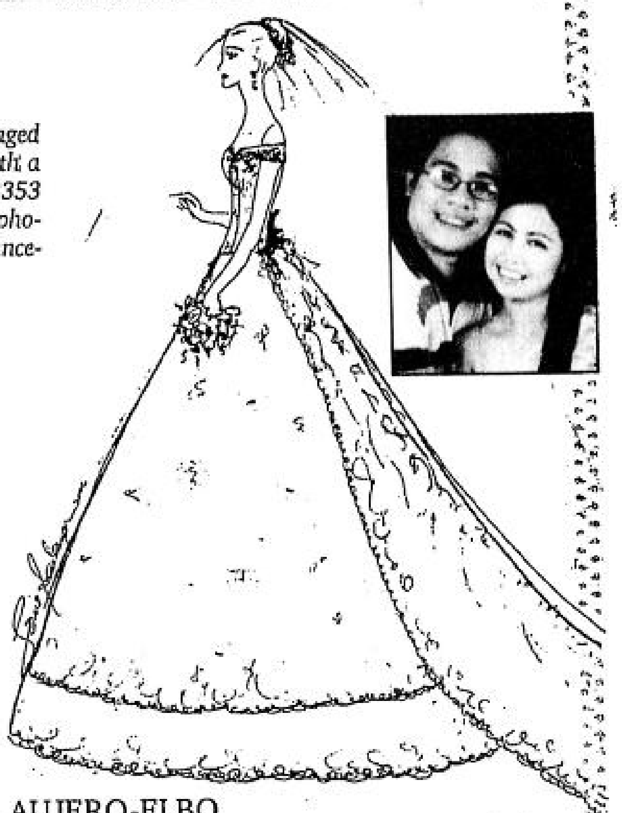


ZOILO-MALIKSI

Percival Gerard C. Zoilo, son of **Pedro** and **Purificacion Zoilo**, will marry **Loudette Anne T. Maliksi**, daughter of **Gil** and **Ma. Asuncion Maliksi**, on May 13 at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati. Reception follows at the Manila Peninsula Hotel.

The bride will wear an off-white gazar gown with a bubble skirt accentuated with handmade brooches of crystal beads and rhinestones, designed by **Junel Lim Gallon**.

The groom will don a **Joel Bautista** creation of *piña ceda barong* with *pitchera* designs.



AUJERO-ELBO

Fred Anthony Aujero, son of lawyer **Fredelino** and **Grace Aujero**, will wed **Jezzie Lou C. Elbo**, daughter of **Lowie** and Dr. **Jesusa Elbo**, today (April 30) at the Manila Metropolitan Cathedral.

The bride will wear an off-shoulder bodice intricately embroidered and appliquéd, designed and executed by **Louie Salazar**.

Reception will follow at Oasis, San Juan.

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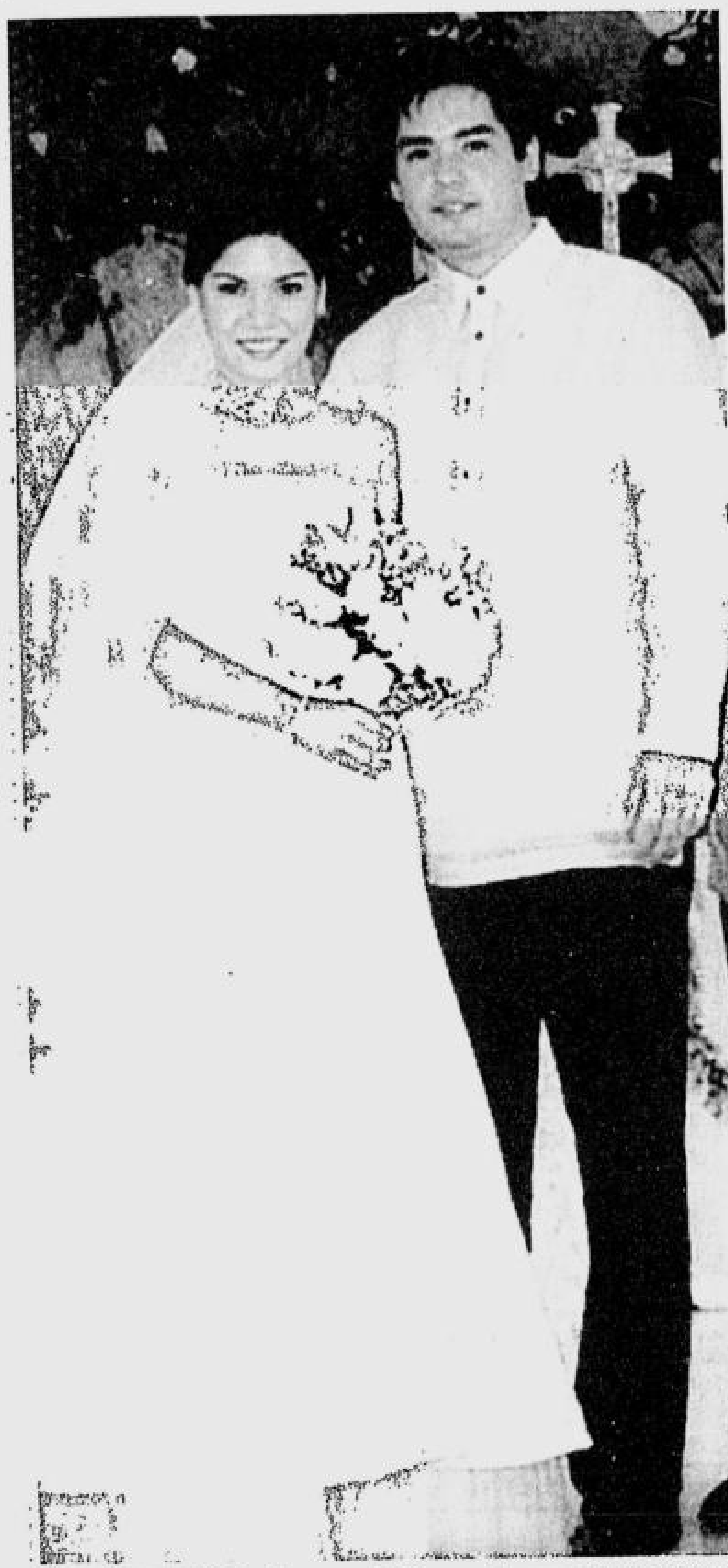


THE BEAUTIFUL Southern couple, Rowena Lopez and husband Neil Lizares

WITH THE BRIDE'S *famille*: Nicole, Anna and Katrina Angeles, Dolores Lopez, Hernan Lopez Jr., MJ Lopez, Manny with Enzo Angeles

WITH THE GROOM'S *famille*: Jennie Misa, Nelissa, Nanette, Boy Nilo, Niño Lizares and Bryan Misa

Romantic dream come true

Text by Maurice Arcache
Photos by Alex van Hagen

IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE BACOLOD'S *ALTA sociedad* saw a wedding of such a beautiful couple, *palanggas*.

Après so many years of having eyes only for each other, the romantic dream of popular young, good-looking Talisay Vice Mayor **Neil Lizares** and gorgeous young lawyer **Rowena Lopez** finally came true. Both are achievers, brilliant in their fields of endeavor. They are civic leaders and assets to their community, *palanggas*.

In super romantic ceremonies at the century-old Queen of Peace Church in Talisay, Neil took for his bride Rowena who, by the way, was the only young lady included by the Philippine Tatler in its list of top Negrense personalities for our special issue on People You Should Know in Bacolod, dahlings.

Rowena looked like a radiant princess in her *tres* elegant **Patrice Ramos-Diaz** wedding gown and a family heirloom diamond choker. But she also looked every inch the modern bride, sure of herself and full of positive attitude, as she walked down the aisle.

Awesome

The tasteful and select list of awesome principal sponsors consisted of southern barons and baronesses **Anna Dabao, Charrie Benedicto, Suzette Bantug, Ina Davis, Annie Mandriak, Tess Golez, Mila Ereñeta-Laurel, Lydia Gaston, Jose Marie Lopez, Citoy Lopez, Serge Osmeña, Amelo Lizares, Francis Jimenez, Raul Gamban, Rosendo Lopez** and **Arturo Ledesma**.

Naturellement, Rowena's happy parents, **Macoy Lopez** and his wife **Dolly L.**, nodded approvingly. Neil's mom and dad, **Boy Nilo Lizares** and wife **Nanette Ereñeta L.**, were quite overwhelmed that their first boy and *niño bonito* was getting married.

The chi-chi southern powdered set filled the lobby of the plush L'Fisher Hotel for the grand wedding reception of Bacolod's beautiful couple. As the social heavyweights made their entrance, cocktails and aperitifs were passed around the elegant La Proa Ballroom, which had a pergola decorated with *cadena de amor*, roses and lilies, beautifully whipped up by floral divas **Tima Lacson** and thoroughly modern **Millie Kilayko**, *palanggas*.

International jetsetter **Minnie Osmeña** made a drop-dead entrance in a scarlet *terno*, adding flash to the local set. Debonair **Citoy Lopez** came with his ladylove, Baronessa **Eva Abesamis**, who only had eyes for her adorable sugar baron.

There were also loads of jetsetters who flew in from different parts of the United States, much to the delight of Bacolod society.

As the loving couple made their entrance with all eyes on them, the new Mr. and Ms Neil Lizares were greeted with applause. The well-chosen dinner menu was excellently done by L'Fisher's fab chefs under the watchful eye of the hotel's main woman of substance and taste, **Delia Granada**, no less, *palanggas*.

The toasts were endless, as well as the clicking of glasses to request the couple to kiss. The couple obliged with delight. Then the couple's memorable moments were flashed on the screen to everyone's enjoyment.

To our beautiful couple, Neil and Rowena, you are definitely meant to live happily ever after.

Cheers, *palanggas*!

BACOLOD society's working heiress Lucy Lizares Y. with sons Luigi, Andrei and Spitzy Yungue

DELIA Granada and Annalou Trebol

STYLISH beauty Frannie Lopez Manotoc

ANNA Limcaoco

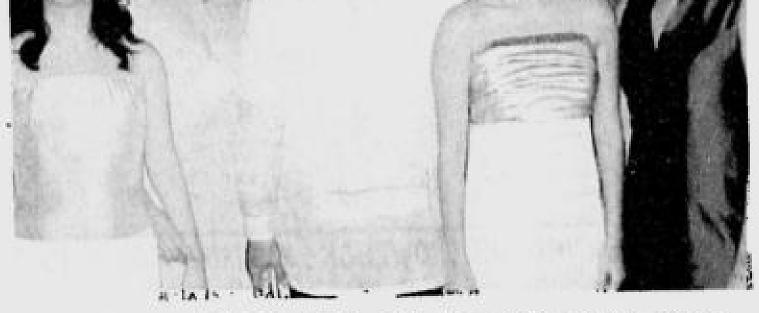
MINNIE Osmeña, Junie and Ginnie Lizares

CONNIE Jimenez with her steady escort, Ramon Aquino

NANETTE and Nilo Boy Lizares

SEN. Serge Osmeña with the bride Rowena and her father Macoy Lopez

GEORGETTE Sanchez, Irene Caram, Honey Regalado, Carla Lacson and Jovee Dizon



GINNY Bantug, Sheila Yap, Talisay City Mayor Eric Saratan, Mariel Bantug and Jenny Sarrosa

Las Piñas parish is 30 years old

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

I LEARNED ABOUT OUR LADY OF FATIMA Parish in Philamlife Village, Las Piñas, in the '90s when Fr. Roy Rosales was parish priest (1990-1998). My friends and I attended fiesta Masses on October 13.

The church is beautiful. Though inside Philamlife Village, it covers 13 other villages in Las Piñas. One time, when I needed something urgently, I asked Our Lady of Fatima for help. The prayer was answered. In 1997, I joined other pilgrims to Fatima, Portugal, to say "thank you."

This year, the parish is marking its pearl anniversary, 30 years of evangelization and celebration of God's word. Fr. Gerard Mascariña, parish priest, leads the nine monthly Novena Masses. Different priests will celebrate each monthly Novena Mass.

On May 13, Nueva Ecija Bishop Mylo Vergara will officiate in the 6 p.m. concelebrated Mass celebrating the 89th anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady of Fatima to children Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta. The Charismatic Community Music Ministry will sing in the Mass that will be preceded by a grand cenacle at 5 p.m.

The other Novena Masses will be held at 6 p.m., June 13, with Fr. Jerry Orbos, SVD, as celebrant; July 13, Fr. Jerry Sabado, OCarm; Aug. 12, Fr. Gerard Diwa; and Sept. 13, Msgr. Sabino Vengco. A Novena Mayor will be held at 7 p.m., Oct. 6-14.

Bishop Socrates Villegas will celebrate the Parish Foundation Day Mass at 6 p.m., July 29. Fr. Ramon Eloriaga, whose family lives in Philamlife Village, will say Mass on Oct. 14, *visperas* of the fiesta.

Former parish priests helped make the community grow. They are Msgr. Josefino Ramirez (1983-1986); Fr. Eugenio Castañeda (1986-1990); Fr. Rosales (1990-1998); Fr. Mario Sanchez (1998-2002); and Msgr. Manuel Sebastian (2002-2005).

The "*comite de festejos*" is composed of Marco Dalma, president and *hermano mayor*; Nora de los Santos, vice president; Donna Tiongson, secretary; Placida Esmero, treasurer; Helen Andres, auditor; and members Francing Vicente, Guido Cuenda, Dina Martin, Heldegunta Guevarra, Rudy Melon, Herminio Rivera, Marita Kilda, Trinidad Villanueva, Maricar Capoquian and Ludy Cruz.

Gapan fiesta

Gapan, Nueva Ecija, will mark the fiesta of Birhen Divina Pastora on May 1 in the centuries-old church of the Three Kings Parish, now her national shrine.

Bishop Sofronio Bancud led the celebration of the 42nd canonical coronation of the Virgin April 26, starting with a High Mass at 9 a.m. Concelebrating were Msgr. Elmer Mangalinao, parish priest, and other priests of the diocese

April 26 was also the 20th anniversary of the declaration of the church as the national shrine of the Birhen Divina Pastora. The late Pope John Paul II sent a special message from the Vatican in 1986.

Wednesday's Mass was attended by the Damas y Caballeros de Virgen Divina Pastora. The reenactment of the Canonical Coronation at 2 p.m. was followed by a procession around the town.

After we wrote about the Virgin last Sunday, Benedicto "Totoy" Flores has been receiving requests for *estampitas*, donated by the Damas de Nuestra Señora Virgen Divina Pastora.

Exhibit

Fr. Vicente "Jay" Lina, curator of the Museo Diocesano in Barasaoin Church, Malolos, is inviting Marian devotees to the exhibit of the images of Mary in her different titles, May 7-14. Allan Tengco is bringing his image of Our Lady of Balbanera (the Virgin Mary sits on a dove), which is venerated in Spain.

> The beautiful church covers 13 other villages in Las Piñas

Fr. Johann Sebastian, parish priest of the Sacred Heart Parish in barrio Pinaod, San Ildefonso, Bulacan, says the images depict the relevance of Mary in all aspects of social concerns. The exhibit is in observance of the Year of Social Concerns declared by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

Rosary shrines

The Ortigas family headed by Rafael Ortigas is building shrines of the 20 mysteries of the Holy Rosary, from the Edsa Shrine to Antipolo, to make people more aware of the life and Passion of Christ. At 4 p.m. today, Antipolo Bishop Gabriel Reyes will open the first stop depicting the mystery of the Annunciation at Edsa Shrine.

Other stops are Ortigas building in front of Meralco, the Visitation; Frontera Verde, Birth of Jesus; FF Cruz property, Jesus is Brought to the Temple; and Our Lady of the Rosary Church on Ortigas, Jesus is Found in the Temple.

Well-known artist Nemi Miranda made the bas relief of the different mysteries.

TV show

"M.O.M.," an acronym for "Miracles of Mary," is a television show produced by ABC Promotions Inc., a small private company under Ben P. Canlas.

With Felimon Tanada as director and Meng Canlas as executive producer, "M.O.M." 4 is scheduled to air 11 a.m., May 31, on Channel 9. It needs sponsors.

To be featured are Our Lady of Guadalupe in Valladolid, Negros Occidental; Nuestra Señora de Guia in Ermita; and Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Posadas Village, Muntinlupa. To help, please text 0920-9227318.

May 31 is the feast of Our Lady of the Visitation, hence the scheduled showing.

Cory in Macau

Former President Cory Aquino was invited to Macau by Bishop Jose Lai for the feast of Our Lady of Fatima. A Filipino Mass will be held May 14 at St. Lawrence Church.

Those who wish to join the Philippine delegation can call Adam's Travel at 5211651 or the Macau Tourism Board.

Boac fiesta

Triduum Masses will be held to mark the fiesta of Our Lady of Biglang Awa, patroness of Boac, at 6:30 p.m., May 6; at 6 p.m., May 7; and 6:30 p.m., May 8 at Holy Family Parish on Madre Selva Street, Roxas District.

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Please send your pre-registration form on or before May 3, 2006 at the DepED-CSCA c/o **MR. JOEY G. PELAEZ**, Chairperson, YES Camp 2006 or fax at 636-3603/631-8494. For more information, contact **MS. MAGGIE DANGANAN** of DENR-Special Concerns Office at 9268346 or **HON. GERALD A. ORTIZ**, KASAMA President, at 0918-4303893. Registration is on a First-come, First-served basis. (Reference DepED Memorandum No.18, s. 2006)

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Milestones

VIRAY DEBUT

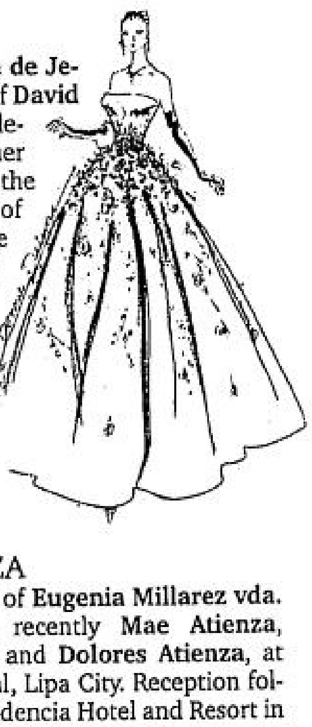
Kristine Rochel Espiritu Viray, only child of **Roland** and **Leonora Viray**, will celebrate her 18th birthday on May 4 at the Centennial Hall of Manila Hotel. She is a sophomore student at De La Salle University-Manila taking up AB Literature.

AMBIDA DEBUT

Joan Leah Ambida Jr., daughter of **Victor** and **Joan Leah Ambida** of Calero, Batangas, celebrated her debut recently at the People's Quadrangle, Batangas City. She is a freshman Tourism student at Batangas State University. Her gown was designed by **Dennis Macarandang**.

MANGONON ANNIVERSARY

Brig. Gen. (ret) **Abraham** and **Angela Mangonon** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently by renewing their vows at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, San Marcelino St., Manila. Reception followed at Villamor Air Base Officers Club.



YU DEBUT

Jaymee Cyrene de Jesus Yu, daughter of **David** and **Cora Yu**, celebrated recently her 18th birthday at the Visayas ballroom of Hotel Philippine Plaza. She wore a **Donnie Delima** gown in white silk organdy with rhinestones and floral details.

VERGARA-ATIENZA

Lorenz Vergara, son of **Eugenia Millarez vda. de Vergara**, married recently **Mae Atienza**, daughter of **Leonardo** and **Dolores Atienza**, at San Sebastian Cathedral, Lipa City. Reception followed at El Grande Residencia Hotel and Resort in San Carlos, Lipa City. Wedding coordination was by **Jun A. Magana**.

TEJADA-INOCENCIO

Joefel Tejada, son of **José** and **Felicitas Tejada**, tied the knot recently with **Fatima Inocencio**, daughter of lawyer **Gerardo** and **Rosalina Inocencio**, at San Agustin Church in Intramuros, Manila. Reception was held at Tamayo's Café in Intramuros.

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Kissing (first) cousins

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

I never thought I would be writing you about a secret I have been keeping for so long. My boyfriend and I were in our late 20s when we first saw each other. There was an undeniable attraction! But there was also fear.

Against all odds, he courted me and we became an item. Our relationship blossomed and grew strong despite adversity. We always managed to work things out, always believing love can conquer all.

After two years, he asked me to move in with him and I did. We've been under one roof for almost four years now.

The past 6 ½ years of our life together has been the best.

For me it was heaven. I was oblivious of his sacrifices and suffering in his workplace. He said his officemates bombarded him with questions about his girlfriend, why they had not seen her visit his office; why he's not married yet at his age—he's a professional in his mid-30s.

His gender had also become an issue and he began to feel the pressure from friends and family.

One night, no longer able to take the years of constant pressure about our relationship and loaded questions about his gender, he decided to break up with me saying it was the only solution he could think of to ease the tension between him and his officemates, friends and family.

I was so shocked because I built my dreams, goals, and future with him.

Never in my wildest dreams did I think that, after all the years we've been together, he would think of being separated from me. We're still so much in love with each other but the thing that binds us together is what will keep us apart.

We are first cousins. We even have the same surname.

I know there are a number of rich families, Chinese and Muslims, that condone partnerships like ours to protect their wealth.

Is there any way we can be openly accepted by society? Our families are devout Catholics and telling them the truth would definitely hurt them.

What are the legal and moral implications of our situation?

MS SERENDIPITY

Love can be described as blind, sublime, illegal, passionate to the hilt, all-consuming, nerve-wracking, insomnia-inducing, gut-wrenching. It is a now-you-feel-it-now-you-don't preoccupation a human being will be subjected to in his/her lifetime. It truly is the most troublesome of all emotions.... besides being the most fantabulous.

As you were saying...

History is filled with first cousins, uncle-niece unions among the royals and the very rich. Somehow marriages among them are accepted because of the immense wealth involved.

Your problem, dear girl, is you and your cousin probably don't belong in the "who cares" firmament and, therefore, could terribly be intimidated by the wagging tongues of friends and family alike.

The only reason society frowns on first cousins marriages is the high probability of congenital defects such as mental retardation in the would-be children of those unions. Other than that, there are no moral or legal impediments in the horizon.

Six years of blissful partnership in this day and age is quite a feat.

Your boyfriend-slash-cousin should stand his ground and announce your relationship to the world if he truly loves you. The saying "love conquers all" is quite true. Just be honest and true to each other.

If your families feel you two are really serious, they'd have no recourse but to accede to your hearts' desire.

Be exceptionally strong together to withstand the turmoil. Like a raging river that will find ways to reach the ocean, your love should be able to hurdle all obstacles—regardless.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, subject Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. *Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.*

Karakol in honor of Sto. Bambino de Aracoeli

THE PINAGPALANG KAMAY HEALING Ministry of Fr. Corsie S. Legaspi sponsors its annual Karakol in honor of Sto. Bambino de Aracoeli on May 1 in Binakayan, Cavite.

This devotion to the Sto. Bambino, Rome's counterpart to the Philippine Sto. Niño, was introduced in the Philippines by Fr. Corsie, well-known healing priest, who was captivated by the story behind the Bambino.

On May 1, the Karakol celebration will start with Holy Mass at the chapel of the Coming Home Retreat and Meditation Center in Binakayan, Cavite, after which a dancing procession will proceed to Freedom Park in Kawit, Cavite, where concluding ceremonies will be held. There will be awards for best costume and best dance group.

At sundown, the image of the Sto. Bambino, together with that of Mary, Health of the Sick, will return in formal procession to the Coming Home Retreat and Meditation Center, currently the shrine of both devotions.

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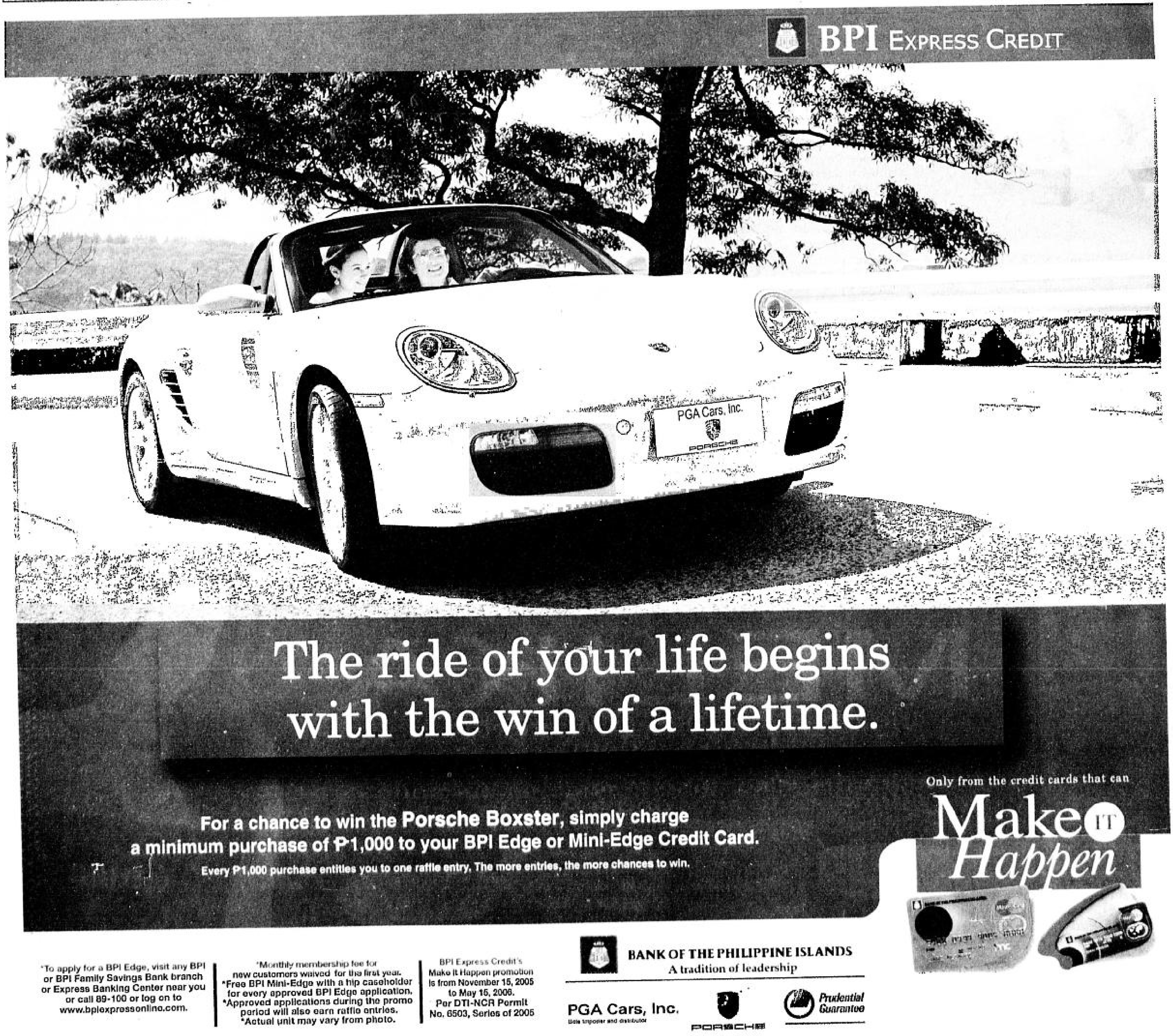

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IN THE NEW season of his television show, Wright looks right at home in a limo as on a camel and other modes of transportation.

A Wright honorable gentleman

STORY ON PAGE E2

MEDITATION

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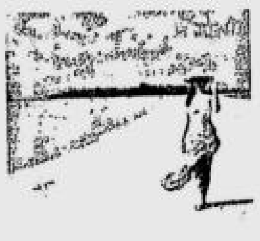

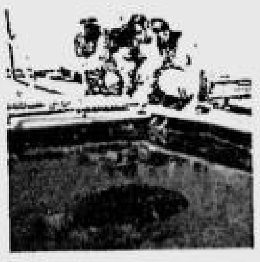

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A Wright honorable gentleman

By Micky Fenix

travel &living

AT A SPANISH fiesta with the Domecq family

WHAT YOU SEE IS INDEED WHAT you get.

Ian Wright, that intrepid globe trekker, our favorite travel companion, is as hilarious, naughty and energetic up close as he is onscreen.

The accent is there, which we can only surmise is from Ipswich, his hometown. He comes into the press conference carrying a cut-out of Karen Mok, the Hong Kong actress with whom he spent some time for his new Discovery Travel and Living show, "VIP Weekends with Ian Wright."

The television personality was dressed in a tuxedo, as befits his new series that has him hobnobbing with the rich and famous. Asked if he had discarded his backpacker persona, he declared, "Those days are over. Backpackers are for losers!"

And, with that he mugged for us the way he does on TV, taking on that haughty, aristocratic James Bond-ish look.

Everyone wanted to know how he felt about spending weekends with some of the richest people in the world. He described the experience as "the other end of the sky" and "two worlds colliding."

Did he make any social gaffes? "Probably just turning up" was his answer. Not remembering names comes close. But in the wine region of Bordeaux, he said, they were too drunk to notice.

From the preview of some scenes, Wright looked right at home in a limo as on a camel. He feels it's harder for the rich to get down to a lower level because they're not used to it.

Rule makers

He went on about class difference, how both the rich and the working class went about with their lives without having to explain anything. And that it's the middle class that made the rules about how to act.

He said the question set him off, then he stood up to take a lecturer's stance. The bit of acting is how he usually puts the period to his statement and he uses the comic touch to lighten an otherwise serious conversation.

Wright was not only promoting his new series but also was one of the attractions of the World Gourmet Summit in Singapore. A "Dinner with Ian Wright" was sold out weeks before. Some 300 people attended what was billed as "The Food I Like."

At the press conference, however, he first talked about the most awful food he had eaten. Those weren't exactly great appetizers to the very good lunch at the China House, an exclusive club in Singapore. He recapped past shows where he recalled his "disgusting" tastings.

There was the rancid shark in Iceland. Wright said the recipe was "put shark in hole, leave it there for eight months, stick it in a shed to dry for four months, eat it when it becomes moldy with the shark scent." He said a restaurant in Reykjavik served it "just for kicks."

Massacre

Then there was raw seal in Canada. His description of the dish was like a massacre: "blood all over, intestines squeezed out in a sauce and it had fat and was brown." He called it Dracula fare.

Worst food in America? He concedes it's possible to get good food in the big cities but throughout the country, it's "rubbish fast food." A taxi driver even told him that to get a proper sit-down meal, they should go to McDonald's.

Mongolia holds a special place in his gastronomic memory because it was there where he was handed a sheep's eye as honored guest. "It just stays in your mouth," he complained.

You could tell he would have preferred to be given the ear that Mongolians give to kids so they listen to adults.

And then fried cockroach in Cambodia. That was just a substitute for spider that was even more special. He asked to imagine that "as you bite the legs coming at you. I don't know what's worse."

You'd have to keep in mind that Wright is a vegetarian. So his willingness to taste all that seems to be the acid test of his adventurous self.

As to good food memories, he mentioned fish in Norway. And anywhere in Southeast Asia where one can always "get a decent bowl of noodles." He likes Italian pasta, especially a la minute noodles.

Skipping RP

Mentioning Southeast Asia, of course, led to the question of why he hadn't been to the Philippines. He couldn't say but he did know another group that did the show was here.

We hope that whoever plans for him will not highlight extreme cuisine.

More of what he liked was at the dinner at the Grand Hyatt Singapore. The noodle soup was Thai-style with minced chicken and coriander. There was the very English fish n' chips and roasted sirloin of beef with Yorkshire pudding. The dinner ended with South American desserts.

Guests went through six wines, from sparkling to sauvignon blanc (two kinds), chardonnay, pinot noir and gewaruztraminer.

The menu was really simple but people didn't seem disappointed because they came to see Wright and he was a showman during lunch, answering the many questions, mugging, totally being himself.

travel &living

WRIGHT employs a comic touch to lighten an otherwise serious conversation.

The weekend with Mok in Hong Kong airs at 10 p.m., May 7, on Discovery Travel and Living.

Five other episodes follow every week featuring the earl and countess of Carnarvon in England, the Mewar royal family in India, Domecq family in Spain, Simon Woodroffe on a boathouse in the United Kingdom, and Florence and Daniel Cathiard in France, specifically the Chateau Haut Lafitte in Bordeaux.

But whether he is returning from a backpacking journey or a rarefied weekend with the rich, Wright's perfect time-off from work is having beer with his mates in the snooker hall with a toilet that stinks.

Wright is married with two children. Sounding like any parent who couldn't believe the choices their kids made, he declared one of them wanted to be in the military. It was accompanied by the appropriate facial expression.

His advice for the adventure traveler: "Don't think about it, buy a flight ticket tomorrow and then worry about it on the plane. This is the hardest step."

Just goes to show that Wright hasn't really been to this country. Our hardest step is to get a visa.

The TV host has put his backpack in storage and given his tuxedo an airing to hobnob with the rich and famous

Around the world on Discovery Channel

- **Hong Kong: Karen Mok**

Set against the beautiful Hong Kong skyline, Ian Wright is invited to watch actress Karen Mok do what she does best—be Karen Mok. Throughout the episode, he crashes her fashion shoot, highjacks her karaoke booth, plays the voice of an animated animal in a movie, eats her pudding and fights her trainer. (Airs May 7, 10 p.m.; encores May 8, 10 a.m.)

- **UK: The Earl and Countess of Carnarvon**

In this episode, Ian Wright is invited to spend a weekend with Lord and Lady Carnarvon at Highclere Castle in the English countryside. Presented with his own personal coach, Ian must prove himself before he can handle a gun. As he waits nervously for the big occasion, a butler tends to his needs and he is wined and dined in luxury. (Premieres May 14, 10 p.m.; encores May 15, 10 a.m.)

- **India: The Mewar Royal Family**

Ian Wright returns to a more leisurely pace when he travels to Udaipur, India, as guest of honor to Princess Bhargavi and the Royal Family of Mewar, one of the world's oldest serving dynasties. Any illusions of grandeur that Ian has are put to rest when he attempts to play polo, plays cricket and must give an appropriate birthday gift to the prince on his birthday. (Premieres May 21, 10 p.m.; encores May 22, 10 a.m.)

- **Spain: The The Domecq Family**

Ian Wright spends a weekend with the Alvaro Domecq family and, in addition to sherry, gets to taste the lifestyle of Spanish aristocracy. It is Fiesta Week in Jerez de la Frontera, and although he hoped to spend most of his time alongside the Domecqs, waving to the crowds, Ian must take part in another family activity—bullfighting. His weekend stay at the magnificent ranch Los Alburejos also turns Ian onto the amazing culture of horses and bulls. (Premieres May 28, 10 p.m.; encores May 29, 10 a.m.)

- **UK: Simon Woodroffe**

Ian Wright spends a weekend on water when he is invited to stay aboard British entrepreneur Simon Woodroffe's houseboat, which is moored along the river Thames in London. Founder of Yo Sushi, Yotel and various other business ventures, Simon introduces Ian to "his" London and soon has Ian climbing scaffolding, swimming in Hyde Park (during the winter), kickboxing and making sushi. The duo also drives to Weymouth to sail one of the fastest yachts on water with part of the fastest crew in England. (Premieres June 4, 10 p.m.; encores June 5, 10 a.m.)

- **France: Florence and Daniel Cathiard**

Englishman Ian Wright goes to France in this episode for an exclusive weekend with Florence and Daniel Catbiard and family. Set in the magnificent Château Haut Lafitte in the Bordeaux countryside, Ian spends the weekend pampered in a way only the French could achieve—with wine, wine and more wine.

However, armed with taste buds only from Ipswich, Ian feels he could be in for a long weekend until he realizes that the grape has other things in store for him, Vinotherapy included. What was potentially a beer drinker's nightmare turns into a cultural revelation with Ian Wright ultimately being enthroned into the Bordeaux Society of Elite Wine drinkers. (Premieres June 11, 10 p.m.; encores June 12, 10 a.m.)

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

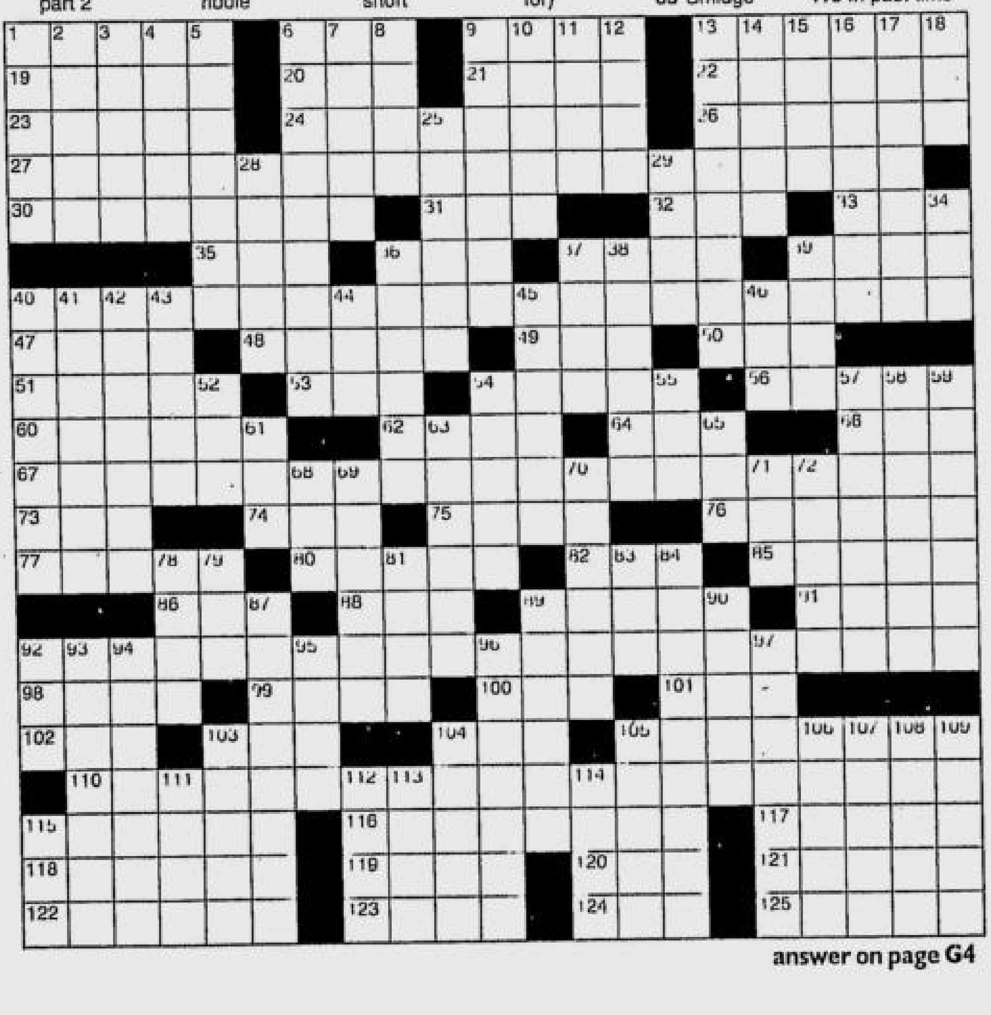
PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — SMELL TEST

ACROSS

1 Scruggs' bluegrass partner
6 Tam, e.g.
9 Clothes
13 Moved in and out of traffic
19 Zodiac sign
20 "You — what you eat"
21 Muffin topper
22 Make it there
23 Up, in baseball
24 Boats used to support temporary bridges
26 Elevates
27 Start of a riddle
30 Kikkoman product
31 Young louse
32 — de Janeiro, Brazil
33 Water tester?
35 Utmost
36 Memphis-Biloxi dir.
37 Toy block brand
39 Quarterback Flutie
40 Riddle, part 2
47 Actress Olin
48 Adams of photography
49 Thumbs-up vote
50 Sailor's setting
51 Former Oldsmobile
53 Lady's man
54 Fall heavily
56 Actress Burstyn
60 Pluto's creator
62 Kett of old comics
64 "... man — mouse?"
66 Gorilla, e.g.
67 Riddle, part 3
73 "— had enough!"
74 Pub beverage
75 Prudent
76 Like Abe
77 Land of Sherpas
80 Pale purple
82 Carders' demands
85 Yule song
86 Collar
88 Long-snouted fish
89 Nibbles
91 Take on cargo
92 End of the riddle
98 Himalayan humanoid
99 Kimono belt
100 18th letters
101 Years and years on end
102 Skeleton lead-in
103 First-rate
104 H.S. math
105 Putting decorative buttons on
110 Riddle's answer
115 Part of EPA
116 "Queen Margot" star Adjani
117 "I — vacation!"
118 Singer Lightfoot
119 Where Waikiki is
120 Towing org.
121 Pronged, as a fork
122 At the scene itself
123 Barbecue bar
124 "— all good"
125 — nous (in confidence)

DOWN

1 Defects
2 Printing process, for short
3 Westminster —
4 — fat (dietary no-no)
5 "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" actress Ali
6 Some monkeys and monks
7 Came into being
8 Teller's partner in magic
9 Sillier
10 Up in the air
11 Soap star Sofer
12 Winter pear
13 Soldiers
14 Sonneteer's Muse
15 Diva's delivery
16 Guest
17 Make smooth
18 — Plaines
25 Tree decoration
28 "— sight!"
29 Thus
34 Sense of self
36 North of Hollywood
37 In — of (as a substitute for)
38 Fill with love
39 Pass out cards
40 60-Across film
41 Alleviate
42 Very simple, as a process
43 French river
44 Forensic drama on CBS
45 Rules
46 Inferior grade
52 Above, in verse
54 Indifferent individual
55 Season opener?
57 Sideways
58 Incident
59 Got cozy
61 Sumac of song
63 Stymie
65 Cigar waste
68 Flu-ridden
69 Mimics Mister Ed
70 Fake-outs
71 Ad —
72 Counting everything
78 Dissenter
79 Quick getaway
81 Thin wood strip
83 Smidge
84 Members of the legume family
87 Bay separating Miami and Miami Beach
89 Use mouthwash
90 Clean well
92 Letter before zee
93 Six-sided figure
94 Penitents
95 Scottish Celt
96 Large flatfish
97 Slowish, in music
103 Broad tie
104 Japanese beer
105 Sound upon impact
106 "To Live and — L.A."
107 "— a Letter to My Love" (1981 film)
108 "Raider" Ralph
109 Forest clearing
111 "... — in my cap ..."
112 Life stories, for short
113 Fast, on a memo
114 Jai follower
115 In past time



answer on page G4

Your Ticket to Paradise this Summer

Just because the sun is setting doesn't mean that the fun is also ending. That's exactly what SMART Infinity and SMART Gold had in mind for two successive days of The Real Sunset Boracay Sessions! Held last April 20 and 21 at the famous Waling Waling Beach Hotel, Chillout guru Anton Ramos was joined by DJ David Jacob and DJ Erwin Edralin in serving up different levels of downtempo, trip hop, and house as the sun bid adieu to the sky.

The event in Waling Waling also served as a celebration of the new partnership between SMART Infinity, SMART Gold, Southeast Asian Airlines (SEAIR), and Ray-Ban. Only SMART Gold can give you free sunset sessions featuring Manila's best DJs. For SMART Infinity subscribers, the VIP treatment is something that they've gotten used to. Not only were SMART Infinity subscribers treated to "The Real Boracay Sunset Sessions" for free, they also got complimentary drinks and free entrance to the party of the year: Hed Kandi in Boracay! Who else but SMART can offer VIP service like that?

DJs Anton Ramos, Erwin Edralin, David Jacob and Manolet Dario flank SMART Infinity's Tom Valderrama

Chicho Suarez, GP Reyes and JR Isaac

Bianca King

Anne Curtis

Erik Cua and Michelle Pamintuan

From the moment Big Fish and SMART landed in Boracay, everyone knew that the party was coming with them. The difference this time around was the presence of the ultra-suave DJs and the tie-up with SEAIR and Ray-Ban. After becoming so in-demand for his skill on the turntable, DJ Anton has served as purveyor of house and electronica both in the Philippines and across Asia. In fact, his "The Chillout Project" CDs are acknowledged as the largest selling electronica/dance compilations in the country to date.

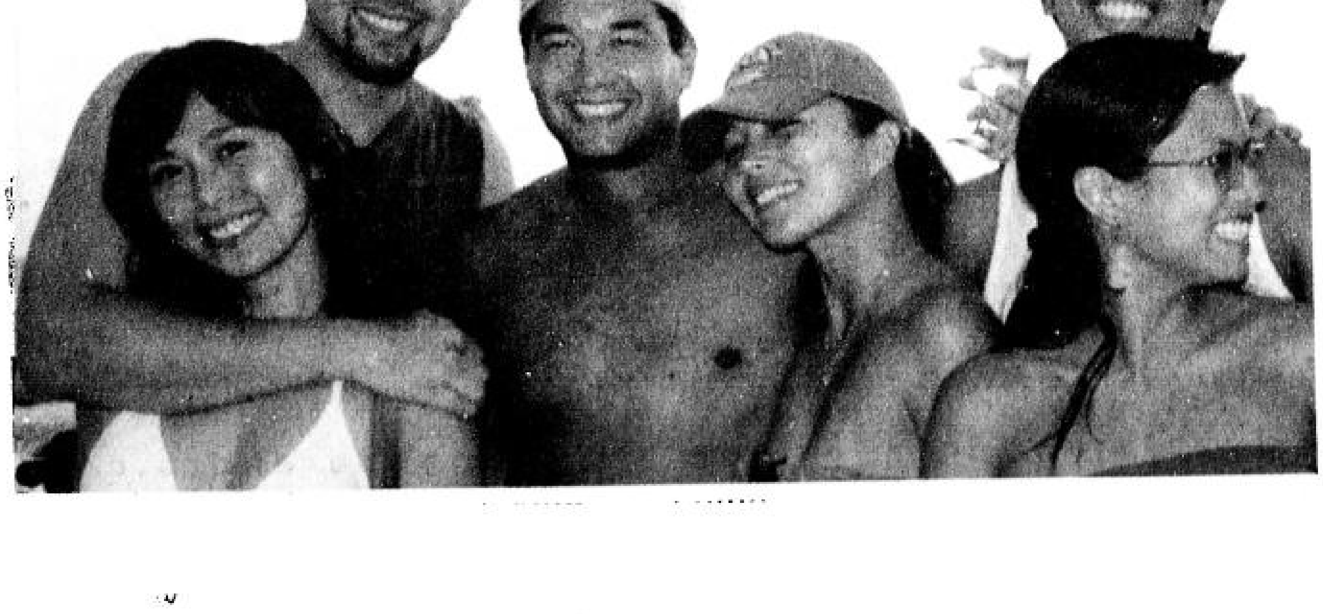
For his part, DJ Erwin Edralin has been a staple of the Manila party scene for well over a decade now. Unique and often described as classy and subdued, his music never fails to be playful, funky, soulful and deep. Though based in Hong Kong, DJ David Jacob has become a frequent visitor to our shores in the past few years. An entrepreneur who doubles (and dabbles) at DJ-ing, David's house influence can be regularly heard at clubs like Embassy and Bed.

The beachfront of Waling Waling transformed into a place where party denizens could relax and (what else?) chill out of course. As DJ Anton manned the booth for two days and ably weaved his musical web, heads were nodding, bodies moving, and everyone couldn't help but groove to the beat. On the second day of "the Sessions", DJs David and Erwin eventually took their turns on the turntable, and there was no letdown in the level of coolness. If this is any indication, SMART Infinity and SMART Gold will definitely cater to all your needs, flying you to the beach of your dreams wearing the coolest shades and listening to the smoothest rhythms in the process.

DJ David Jacob at the turntable

Nicole Hernandez and Kelly Misa

Luke Jickain



The party continued past dusk in Boracay!

SMART Infinity and SMART Gold subscribers who buy select Ray-Ban sunglasses can get free tickets to either Boracay or Palawan via SEAIR. On the flipside, SMART Infinity and SMART Gold subscribers who purchase SEAIR tickets heading for Palawan or Boracay get select complimentary shades from Ray-Ban.

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TRAVELBRIEFS

Summer packages

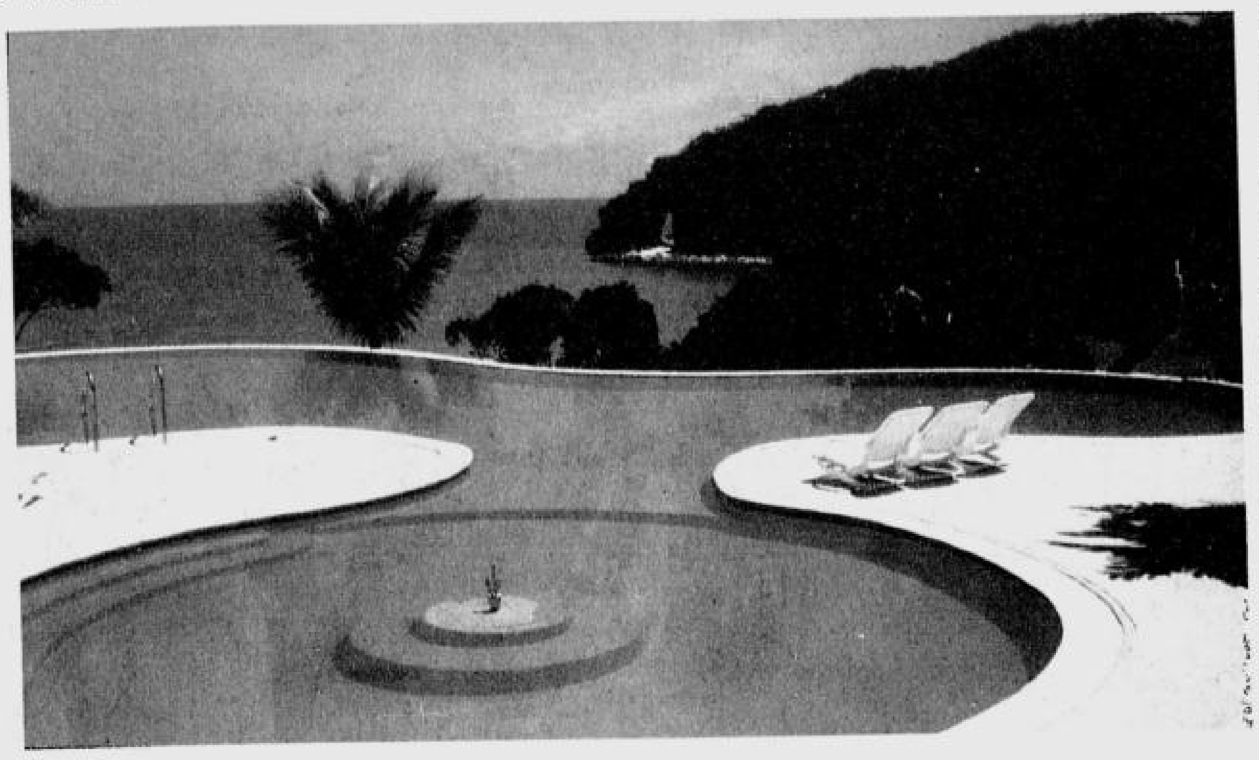
The Meralco Management and Leadership Development Center (MMLDC) is offering various summer packages. They include the Family Weekend Getaway; Summer Weekend Cook-out, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays (menus start at P199 and is inclusive of soup, salad or rice); May is for Moms, that includes a visit to the Lady of Good Voyage shrine at the Antipolo Cathedral. On May 14 is the Mother's Day Blow-out. MMLDC will also celebrate Antipolo's Sumakah Festival, held first week of May, with Sumakah Surprise. Call 6328111. E-mail mmldc.marketing@meralco.com.ph or visit www.mmldc.com

Medical tourism

The Department of Tourism hopes to make medical/health services one of the country's tourist attractions in its drive to attract more visitors in the next five years. President Macapagal-Arroyo has created a special task force on medical tourism that would coordinate efforts of three government departments—Tourism, Health, and Trade and Industry. Among the areas that are expected to be promoted are cosmetic surgery and hospital/medical services.

'Go' Fares

Travelers can now make their booking online for Cebu Pacific's (CEB) "Go" fares, the year-round low-cost airfare, through the new website www.cebupacificair.com. CEB's "Go" fares in 16 prime domestic destinations like Roxas City in Capiz, the "Seafood Capital of the Philippines," are reduced by as much as 50 percent. Call 7020888.



BARKADAHAN PACKAGE

Fairways & Bluewater Resort Golf & Country Club is offering the Barkadahan Getaway package in partnership with the new Bora Air jet service until May 31. With a minimum of eight persons, a *barkada* pays only P8,875 per person at the resort and P5,000 each for airfare on Bora Air. The package includes three-days, two-nights stay at Boracamp Wilderness in Fairways & Bluewater and breakfast. Bora Air, operated by Interisland Airlines, has four flights daily from Manila to Caticlan and vice versa. Call 6331393 to 95.

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WOW PHILIPPINES

From Russia and Germany, with love

Text and photos by
Cheche V. Moral

BARELY two weeks before it was officially springtime, Europe's bitter-cold winter looked like it wasn't about to go swiftly just yet.

But denizens of the German capital were unfazed. Bundled up in their thermal wear and layers of wishful thinking, they scurried to the checkout counters of the Swedish shop H&M on Kurfurstendamm, Berlin's main shopping avenue, with arms full of gauzy spring wear, as if on a primitive rite to heat up the frigid air outdoors.

At about this time, the Philippines' Department of Tourism, quite opportunely—and not without tons of wishful thinking, too—was showing beckoning sunshiny images of the islands on a video wall at the Internationale Tourismus-Borse in Berlin. After all, the Philippines is not alone in the quest to seduce tourists to sunny isles, beautiful beaches and warm tropical smiles that can melt ice.

Biggest fair

ITB is the world's biggest annual travel fair and tourist marketplace, with some 10,000 exhibitors from 180 countries. Logistically speaking, the Philippines' participation this year was quite modest next to its Asian neighbors alone. But in the country's pursuit to lure Europe, one of its most coveted tourist markets, it looked like it wasn't just the Germans who had undaunted spirits. And it was easy to see why.

While China, Korea and Japan remain the Philippines' biggest tourist markets volume-wise, Europe is considered its prime market, with guests staying an average of 21 days, considerably longer than Asian tourists; ergo, greater spending and long-term profits.

The country has been on a roll since it emerged from the tourist slump that began in the late '90s as a result of the peace-and-order situation, among other factors. Tourist arrivals in January alone was up by 22 percent compared to January 2005. It was a record growth that owed much to intensive image build-

FROM RUSSIA/F2

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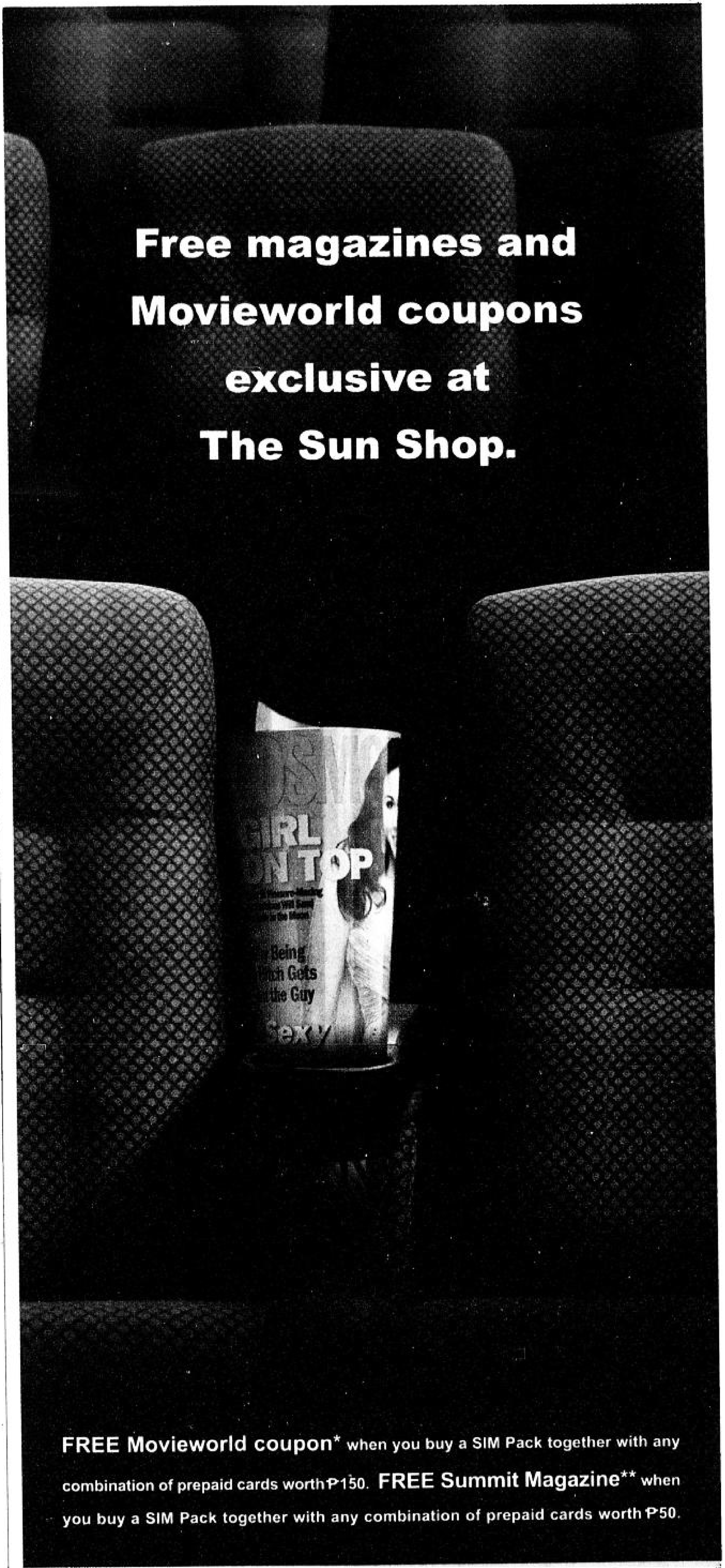
Per DTI-NCR Permit No 1630, Series of 2006



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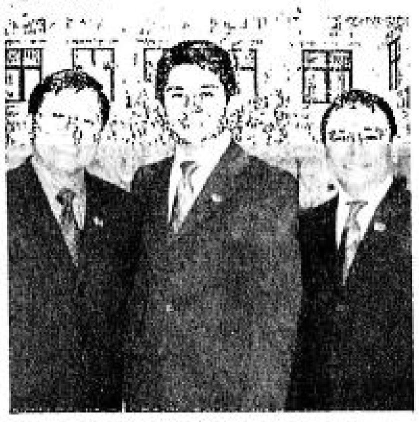
EUROPEAN guests get free *tinikling* lessons from the Bayanihan dancers.

FILIPINO models don couture by Pitoy Moreno, Ben Farrales, Inno Sotto and Rajo Laurel for the reception held for Russian tour operators.



MEMBERS of the House Committee on Tourism, Reps. Florencio Miraflores of Aklan, Miles Andrew Roces of Manila and Antonio Alvarez of Palawan

VENUS Tan, DOT-Frankfurt director for Central and Eastern Europe; Consul Gen. Leslie Baja; and Ambassador Delia Albert (with orange scarf)

From Russia and Germany, with love

SEC. Durano and Vladimir Strzhalkovsky, head of the Russian Federal Agency of Tourism, sign the bilateral tourism agreement between Russia and the Philippines.

THE PROPOSED Philippine center on Fasanenstrasse, near the prestigious Kempinski Hotel in Berlin

From page F1

ing and bullish market-specific campaigns.

"The worst case for us is to be paralyzed," said Tourism Sec. Joseph Durano. "We're moving from sporadic to annual campaigns. Our goal is to maintain visibility." The current DOT tack is "awareness, preference, purchase." "We're putting more science into what we're doing, that's why we're hiring global consultants."

In the United Kingdom last year, the DOT launched its taxicab drive, adorning 50 London cabs with jeepney-like art in promoting WOW! Philippines, the tourism campaign launched at the time of Sec. Richard Gordon, and now continued by Durano. In some markets, like Korea and Japan, the department has hired local celebrity endorsers in its effort "to be intimate with the market."

Last month, during the ITB, the DOT launched an Infoscreen campaign in 114 German train stations spanning 12 major cities. The campaign runs round the clock at five-second intervals, and will initially run for six months. As for the cost, "It's worth it," stressed Venus Tan, DOT-Frankfurt's director for Central and Eastern Europe. The Infoscreen has an estimated consumer reach of 11,400 daily per station.

Germany has one of the biggest tourist arrivals to the Philippines from Europe, second only to the United Kingdom. Mostly professionals and business executives on holiday, German visitors gravitate to the beaches of Cebu, Boracay and Mindoro, staying an average of 21 days. Sixty percent are repeat travelers.

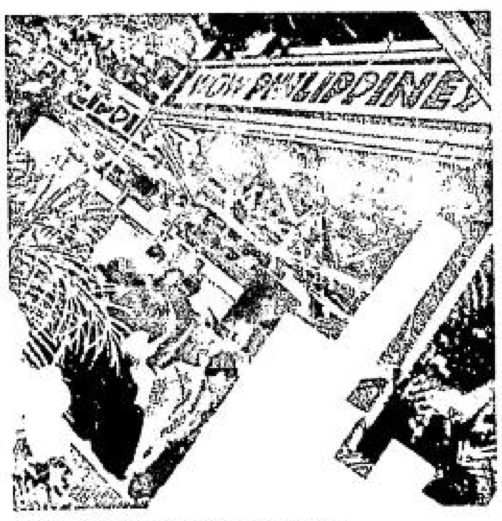
Concern

It must be recalled that following the kidnapping of a German family in Sipadan in 2000, German arrivals considerably dropped. But the confidence is back, according to Tan.

"They're not affected by the Philippines' [political] situation," said Leslie Baja, Philippine consul general in Berlin, several weeks after the President proclaimed a state of emergency. "They tend to compartmentalize. *Huwag lang may* kidnapping."

Still, security is a major concern with tourists, especially the Europeans. "When something happens, we work double time to reassure them," said Nadja Trinchera of Rajah Tours.

"We get bombarded with e-mails," added Baron Travel's Maria Aurora Tadeo with a grimace. "*Madalas di-nadaan-daanan lang kami.*" Which explains why, for three years, Baron didn't participate in the ITB.



THE MODEST Philippine booth

"We tell them it's happening globally, it's not only in the Philippines," Trinchera said. "Filipinos can be quite melodramatic, and it affects tourism. We hope media would tone down its reportage."

At the ITB, however, Tadeo, who admitted 2005 was a very good year for the travel industry, said they had promising talks with their European counterparts. "But we have to wait for three months" if those talks would translate to sales. They're not dissuaded, she added. "We're here, right? And that's affirmation enough that we're ready to do business."

Europe remains Philippine tourism's prime market, with European guests staying an average of 21 days, considerably longer than Asian tourists

Oil-rich

Indeed. Several days later, the private sector also trooped to Moscow with the DOT team, to intensify the campaign for the country's fastest emerging market: the Russians.

If there's anybody who has most benefited from the rising cost of oil, it is the Russians. Forbes Magazine recently reported that oil-rich Russia now has the third most number of billionaires. And they are quite the enthusiastic spenders and travelers.

THE LOKTEV Song and Dance Ensemble performing Russian folk dances.

One of Europe's fastest growing outbound travelers, the Russians are among the world's top spenders and luxury shoppers, justifiably making them a very desirable market.

Given Russia's unforgiving climate for almost half of the year, Muscovites are inclined to travel to the warm tropics. However, the Philippines is still a relatively unknown destination for most Russians, said Vladimir Strzhalkovsky, head of the Russian Federal Agency of Tourism, such that most Muscovites would spend their holidays in Asian countries like Thailand and Malaysia.

Even then, Russian arrivals to the Philippines posted the greatest increase by the end of 2005, at 181 percent, compared to the previous year. A very encouraging development that paved for the signing of a bilateral tourism agreement that also coincided with

FROM RUSSIA/ F4

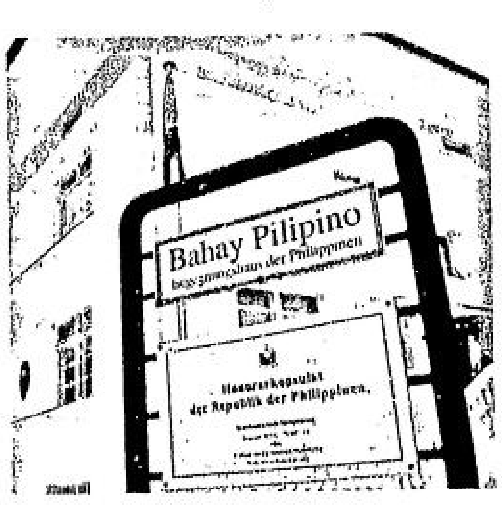
ITB guests sample the massage services of therapists Richard Escucha and Rachel Castro.

BAYANIHAN musicians and singer-dancers delight the Russians with their performance of a Russian folk song and dance.

TOURISM Sec. Joseph "Ace" Durano meets with the German press at the ITB.

A **TAE** kwon do demonstration by young German students at the Korea booth

THE PHILIPPINE delegation to the Moscow tourism-selling mission, in front of St. Basil's Cathedral in Red Square



THE BAHAY Pilipino in Potsdam, Germany, which Manfred Schnell put up with his Filipina wife, Stella Pimentel Schnell

Talk 'N Text AnniverSAYA
hits Cagayan de Oro

On the latest stop of Talk 'N Text's 6th year anniversary celebration, the Limketkai Mall in Cagayan de Oro City served as venue for the "AnniverSAYA" party! As the third leg of this party series, Cagayan de Oro proved to be a more than able host for the numerous activities planned for the entire day.

ANNIVER SAYA! 6TH YEAR

Talk 'N Texters await by the main stage

AnniverSAYA sa Umaga

Last April 22, 2006, the opening festivities were attended by celebrities Vhong Navarro, Tuesday Vargas and Dominic Ochoa. Governor Oscar Moreno, Mr. Albino Limketkai and Councilor Eduardo Ayunting were also on hand at the entrance arch to the main stage as the early birds to the party were treated to three AnniverSAYA Lands filled with games and treats. ANNI Land saw people playing with Big Dice, Stick Fights, Giant Basketball and Giant Tumbang Lata! Visiting VER Land could get you a new haircut, face paint, henna tattoos, as well as some yummy food treats. Sumo Wrestling, Tic Tac Toe, Giant Pick Up Sticks, and Shoot D' Loops were waiting for the adventurous people who dropped by SAYA Land.

AnniverSAYA sa Tanghali

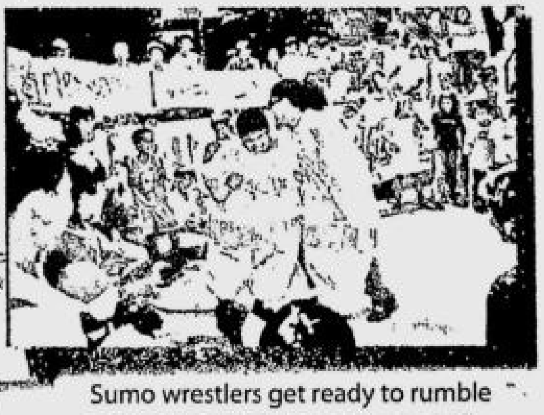
From 12:30pm until 7:00 in the evening, popular heartthrob Jericho Rosales joined Tuesday, Vhong and Dominic in meeting and greeting their fans at the "Teatro ng Tuwa". More exciting games and prizes were played as the people of CDO joined their idols onstage. Later, outrageous comedienne Rufa Mae Quinto and beautiful Heart Evangelista made their way to join in the Talk 'N Text party!

AnniverSAYA sa Gabi

Rufa Mae had the fans rolling in the aisles with her trademark comedy and via a dance number, while Heart and Jericho thrilled the locals courtesy of a romantic duet. Some of the funniest comedians who regularly perform at the Laffline comedy clubs also trekked to Cagayan de Oro to add to the raucous fun. Not content with merely bringing celebrities to the city, Talk 'N Text AnniverSAYA also raffled off some amazing prizes! Moncho Sandiego won a scooter, Roberto Bermudo won a Motorola phone kit, while Roy Virtudazo won a Promac VCD player and Jeneline Biol won a Promac DVD player. A Philips TV was won by Rowena Bradero, and if that wasn't enough, Evelyn Subang earned a grocery showcase and Romelyn Cuteron won a kitchen showcase!

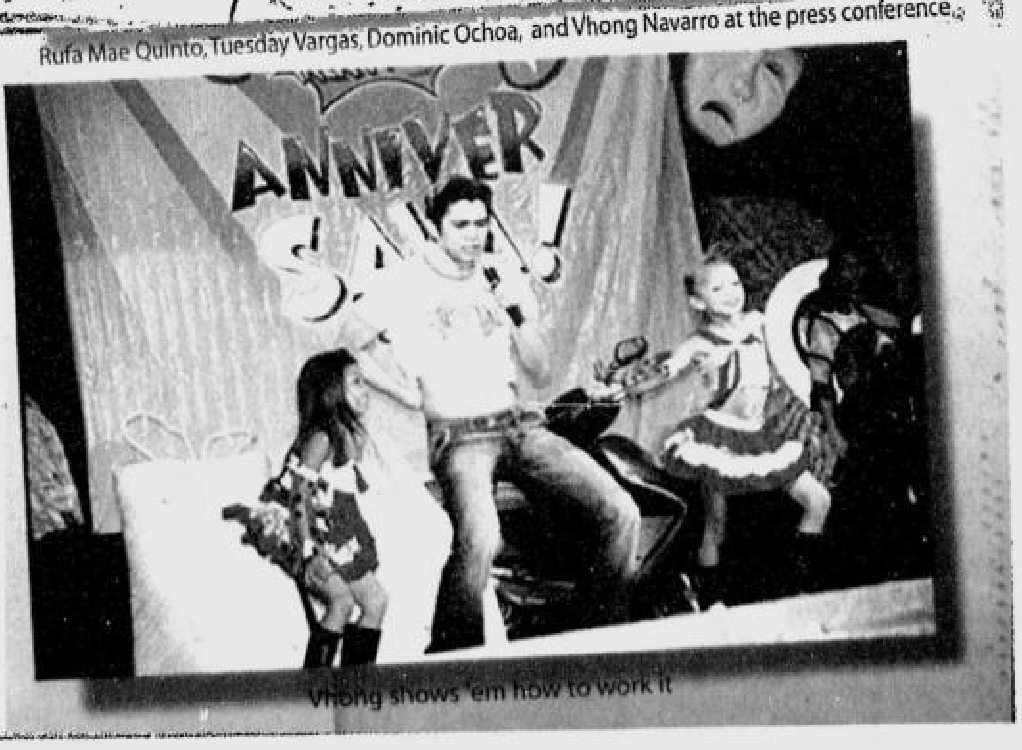
The party doesn't end in Cagayan de Oro! Bicolanos better watch out as Talk 'N Text AnniverSAYA will visit Naga City on May 6, 2006 for the next leg of this 6th anniversary extravaganza!

Heart and Jericho greet their fans in CDO



Sumo wrestlers get ready to rumble

Rufa Mae Quinto, Tuesday Vargas, Dominic Ochoa, and Vhong Navarro at the press conference



Vhong shows 'em how to work it

THE LOKTEV Song and Dance Ensemble has produced some famous soloists for the Bolshoi Theater.

From Russia and Germany, with love

From page F2

the 30th-year celebrations of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Statistics show that Muscovites prefer to travel in countries where a visa-upon-arrival scheme is implemented, and this was one of the arrangements Durano promised his counterpart at the signing.

Luxury accommodations

As Muscovites and other Europeans have a preference for luxury accommodations, the Philippines is facing yet another challenge with the shortage of infrastructure.

"[The number of] tourists is no longer a problem," says Tan. "Capacity is the problem. But it's doable if we act together. We need to strike a balance between our short-haul (Asian) and long-haul (European) markets."

Cebu and Boracay, for instance, have been turning away long-haul tourists as some dates are blocked off for Asian travelers, making it hard for Europeans to extend their stay. To add to that, the country has 11 million domestic tourists.

There is, of course, the prospect of investments that follow tourism. And the DOT is pinning its hopes on that.

This year, the department was the first to get its budget approved, and with an increase of P300 million. Perhaps to show where the money is going, the DOT brought three members of the House Committee on Tourism to Berlin and Moscow.

Gay and
Travel
Hall 12

SOME tour operators at the ITB also offered packages to niche markets, like gay and lesbian travelers.

The legislative and the executive departments can work together, opined Palawan Rep. Antonio Alvarez, by allocating a more substantial budget for tourism development. He suggested a one-directional focus for government agencies for, say, five years, to develop infrastructure and other areas for tourism promotion, giving full command to the DOT and essentially making the tourism secretary the most powerful man in the Cabinet. He assented, however, that given the country's bureaucratic setup, that may only be done in theory.

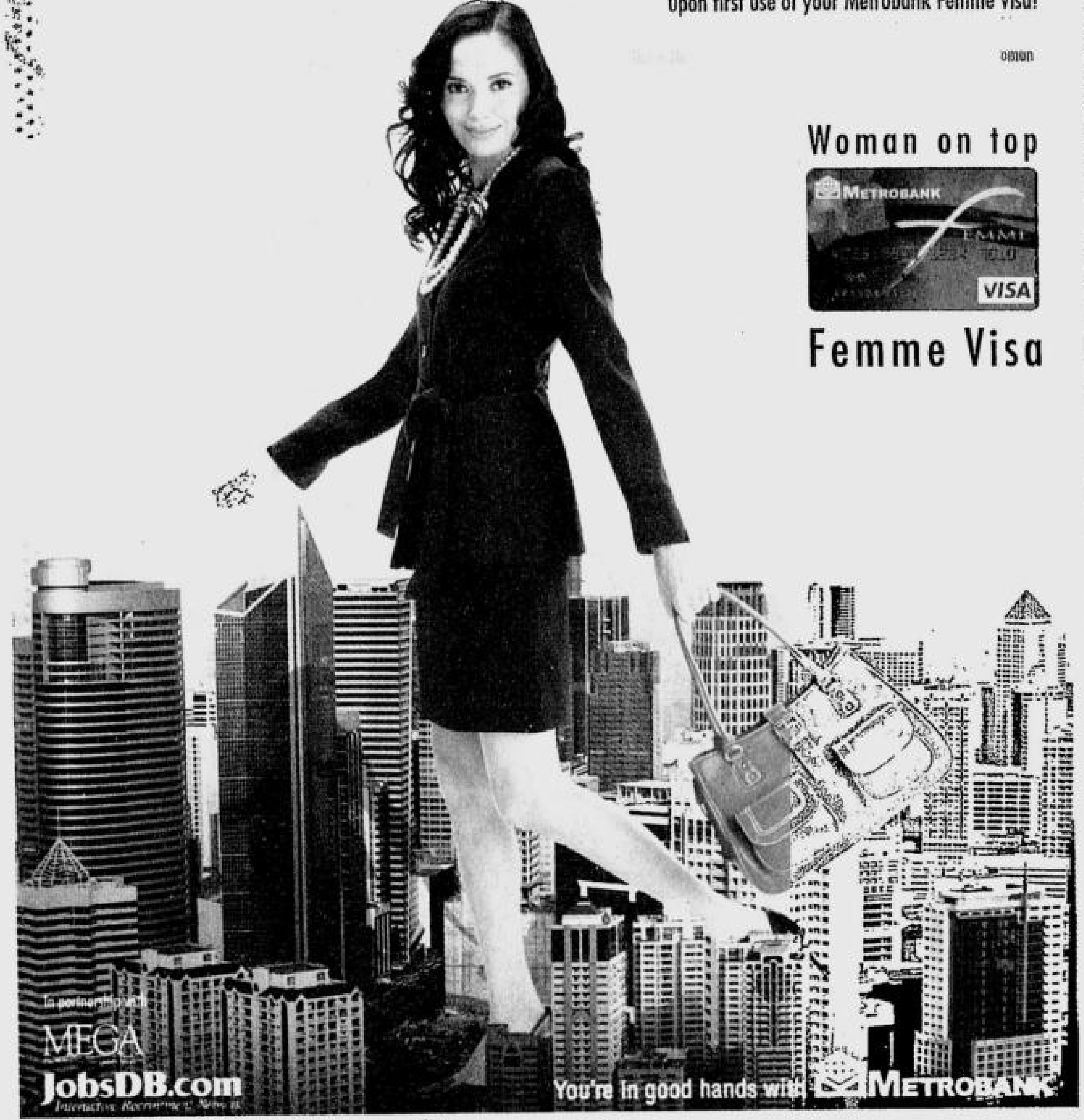
Aklan Rep. Florencio Miraflores said the DOT's "marketing strategy should be to sell each island as it is," perhaps a more pragmatic tack given how foreigners usually associate any news of unrest in a specific place to the rest of the country.

His colleague, Manila Rep. Miles Roces, however, went further by suggesting a bill to rename the country to "Philippine Islands (P.I.)." The present name "sounds too political," he reasoned, and may need a more "attractive, exotic and descriptive" alternative.

A fascinating idea to Roces, perhaps, but one that's bound to generate not a few outraged curses of *"p.i.!"*

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

MORE spectacle from the Loktev Song and Dance Ensemble, which performed at the Moscow Heritage Center to celebrate the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between RP and Russia.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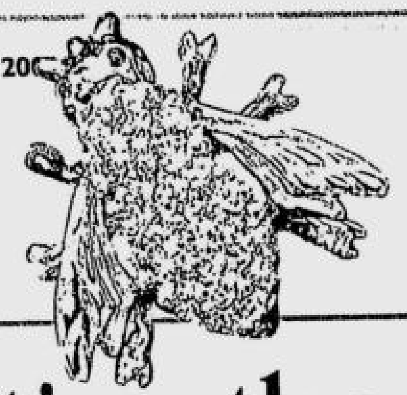

AS REWARD to deserving Mary Kay ladies, they get diamond bumblebee pins...

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2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Painting the town pink

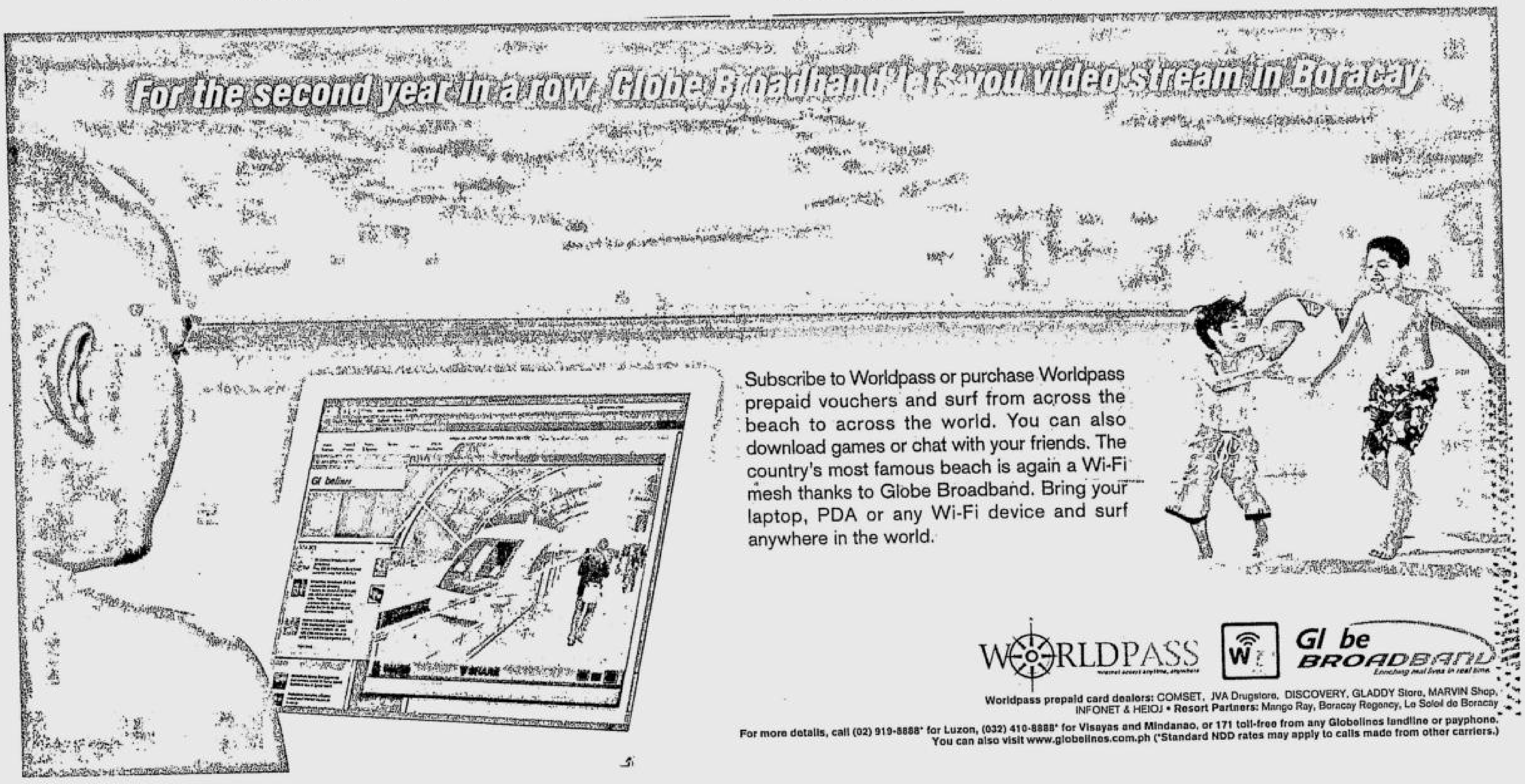
China's Hangzhou went from red to Mary Kay's signature color at the opening of the beauty company's newest factory

By Allison W. Lopez

NOT EVEN THE FOGGIEST of days could dampen their spirit. They were cheering and singing under a steady drizzle, and in high heels at that.

PAINTING/ G2

... OR A TRIP TO CHINA! Here, the top sales directors at Hangzhou's famous West Lake



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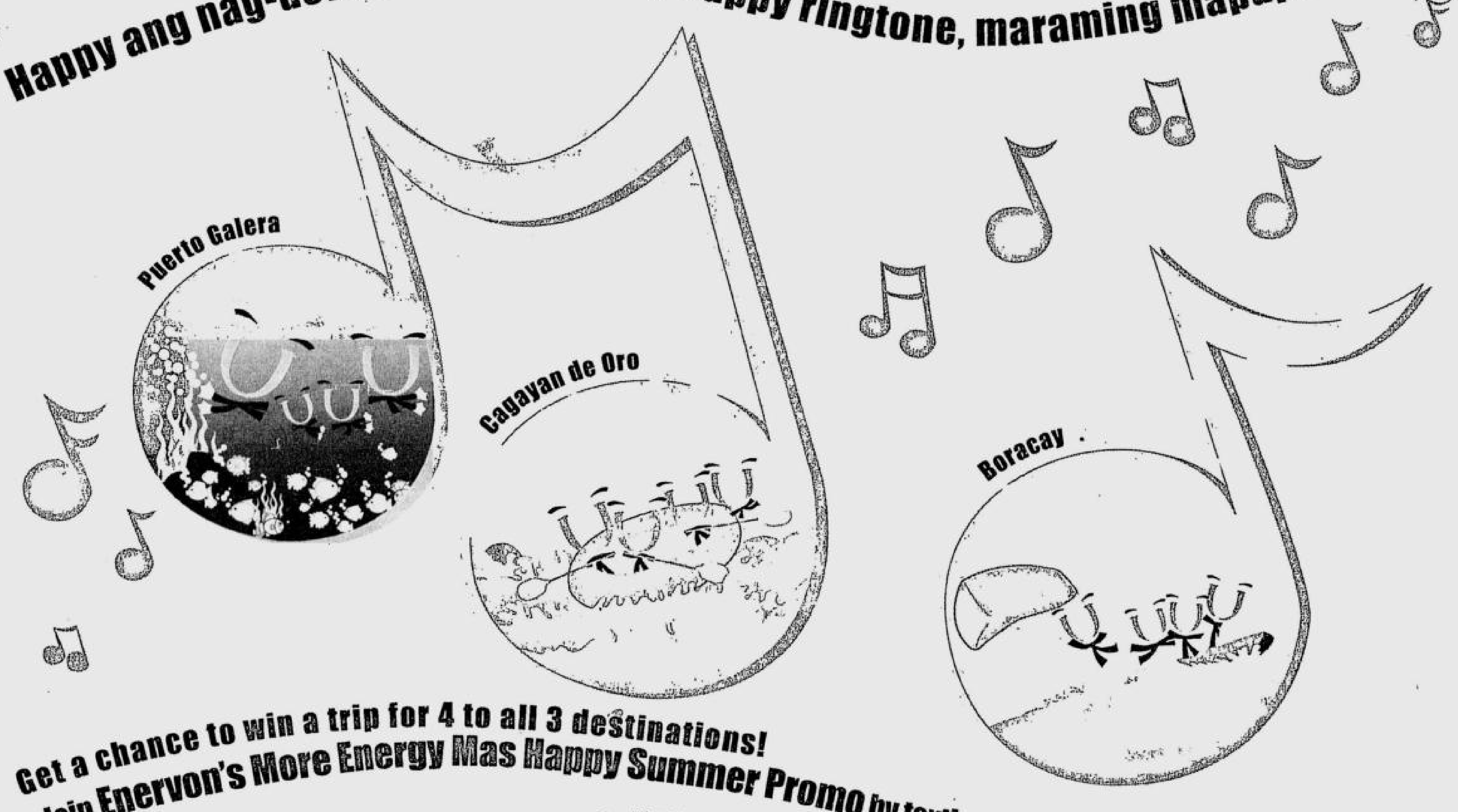

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- ONE (1) winner will be drawn.
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Promo Period: April 30 to May 30, 2006
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Per DOH-BFAD Permit Number 0529, Series of 2006

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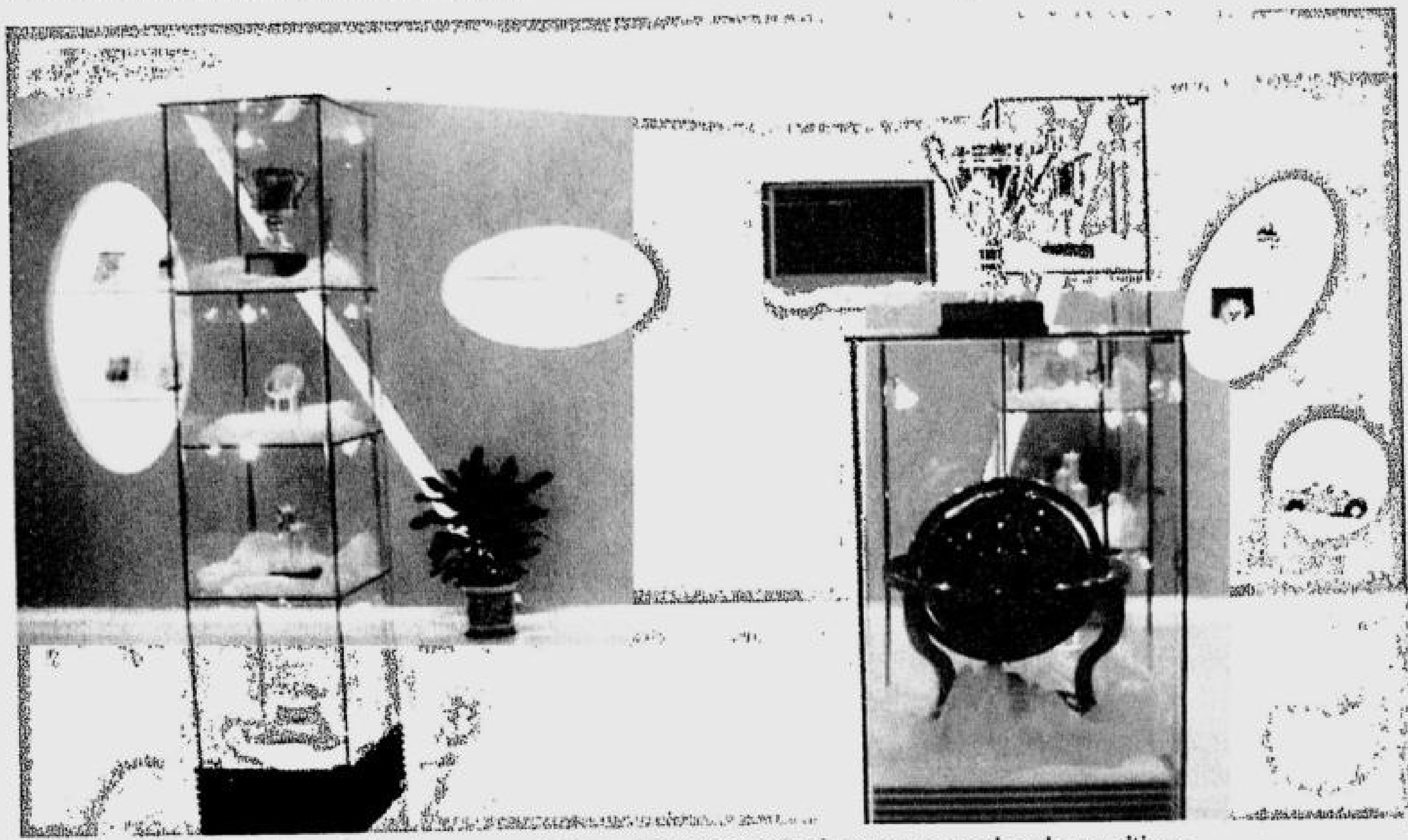


NAMED one of the most influential businesswomen in history, Mary Kay received numerous awards and recognitions, as seen in this display area inside the facility. ALLI LOPEZ

THE STATE-OF-THE-ART factory in Hangzhou was built to accommodate the booming China market. ALLI LOPEZ

STRIKING a pose at the Six Harmonies Pagoda

Painting the town pink

From page G1

It wasn't a religious gathering, but a gathering of the religious, nevertheless. Wearing pink raincoats over their corporate suits, some 700 fully made-up women of Mary Kay (MK) from seven countries assembled on a cold day in March in Hangzhou, China, to witness the birth of a new symbol of the company's rapid expansion in Asia—a 250,000 sq ft, world-class facility that churns out all the beauty booties they've come to love.

"I've got that Mary Kay enthusiasm deep in my heart, deep in my heart," sang the women as they awaited the coming of their top-level male executives. One of them was the founder's grandson, 28-year-old Ryan Rogers, who everybody whispered was good-looking.

He did not disappoint. Everyone wanted to have pictures with him. Also in the entourage were David Holl, MK Inc. president and COO, and KK Chua, MK Asia-Pacific president.

Instead of a ribbon-cutting ceremony, the few good men of Mary Kay delighted the crowd by changing into white sailor uniforms to steer the wheel of the makeshift ship on stage. The company's new voyage, so to speak, finds anchor in the new factory that's said to be more state-of-the-art than the one in Texas and will produce the bulk for China, MK's biggest Asian market.

Some wished for better weather, but Chua believed the raindrops were blessings from heaven. Indeed it was, for though the sky was gray and somber, the grounds were alive with pink, MK's signature color, and warmed by the smiles of these extraordinary women.

Top sales directors

The women, sales directors in their own countries, namely China, Taiwan, HK, Korea, Malaysia, Australia/New Zealand and the Philippines, had won a company contest and were rewarded with a trip to China. It's what other sales companies call a quota, but Mary Kay calls it a "challenge."

Mary Kay, after all, is a company that advocates "a balanced life by placing faith first, family second and career third." It's a corporation that has presence in more than 30 markets, yet it remains one of the largest privately held firms in the US.

These principles stem from the founder herself, Mary Kay Ash, a woman of strikingly strong-willed character. She began making a difference at home, caring for a seriously ill father while getting good grades in school. Her mother was her major inspiration, and whose words of wisdom guide the company till now: "You can do it."

Throughout her life, "the extraordinary thing," said chair and CEO Richard Rogers, son and co-founder, "was the way Mary Kay caused people to believe in themselves."

If you count the Mary Kay sales force in that, then that's about 1.3 million independent beauty consultants worldwide.

Mary Kay Inc. is one of the largest direct sellers of skincare and color cosmetics in the world. It has averaged double-digit annual growth since the company's founding in 1963.

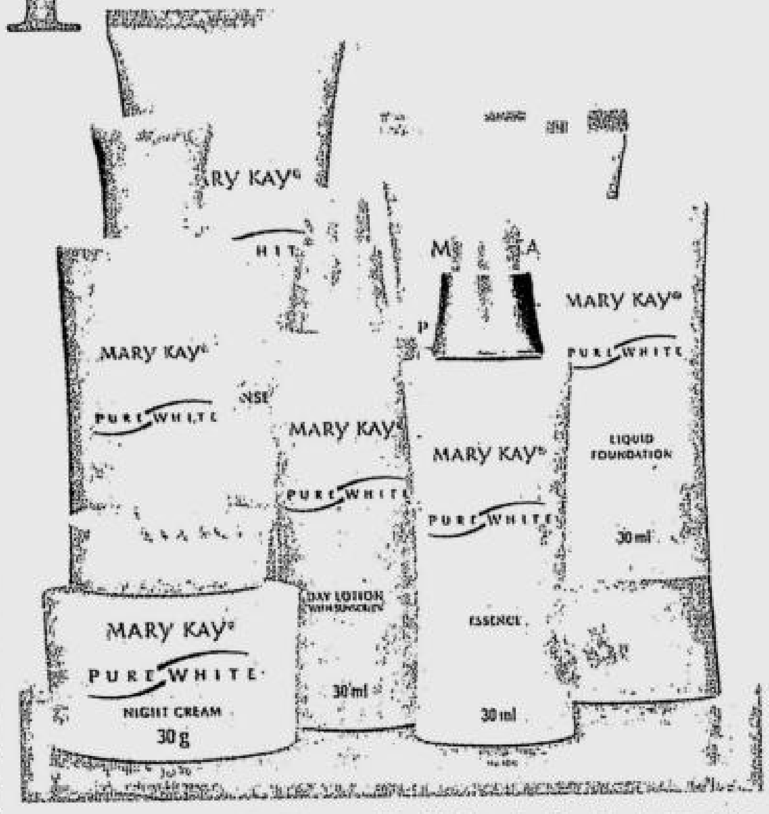
From an initial nine-item collection, the MK product line has expanded to more than 200 premium products in six categories: facial skincare, color cosmetics, nail care, body care, sun protection and fragrance.

The latest is the PureWhite system, a skin-brightening line that was a hit all over Asia and especially in the Philippines, where retail sales reached P7 million when it was launched in March. It must be because Asians, said Holl, are actually more into skincare than Caucasians, who have more makeup lines.

"We're running out of stocks. Purewhite is doing so good it exceeded our expectations," said Bernie Mercado, MK Philippines GM. As for company sales, MK Philippines posted a 75-percent growth last year.

Starting anew

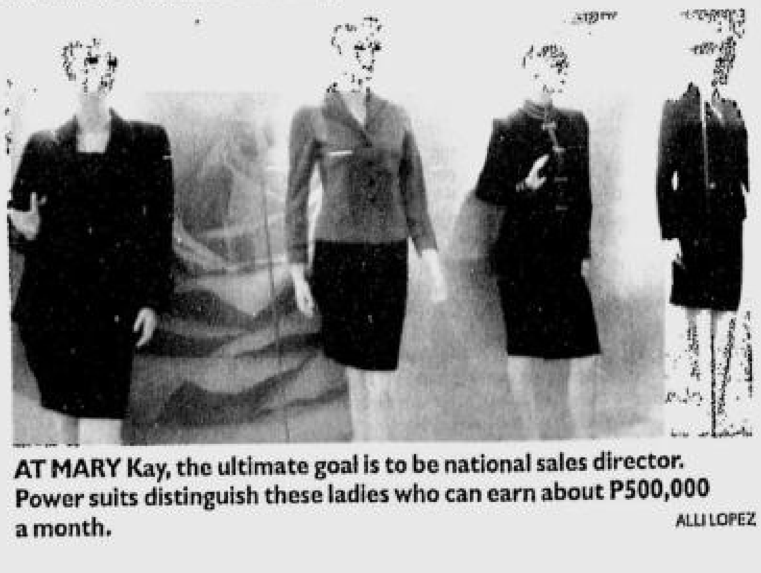
The Philippine sales force now has 10,000 active members. It keeps growing, too, judging by the number of facials done every Saturday on potential recruits, in what the company calls its guest events. After the free facials, a presentation on the Mary Kay career path is shown.



PUREWHITE, Mary Kay's latest skin-brightening line, has taken Asia by storm since it was launched last month.

A FEW GOOD MEN. Bernie Mercado, Mary Kay Phils. GM; KK Chua, MK Asia-Pacific president; Mary Kay's grandson Ryan Rogers, board director; and David Holl, MK Inc. president and COO ALLI LOPEZ

EXECUTIVE senior sales director Christina Boyd, MK Philippines' candidate for its first national sales director, leads a breakout group discussion during the workshop.



AT MARY Kay, the ultimate goal is to be national sales director. Power suits distinguish these ladies who can earn about P500,000 a month. ALLI LOPEZ

MARY Kay Ash was included in the book "Forbes Greatest Business Stories of All Time," one of 20 and the only woman business leader profiled. Her philosophy? "If you think you can, you can. And if you think you can't, you're right."

EVEN the raincoats were in pink. Drenched sales directors at the factory opening, still all smiles

Those interested can register and avail of the starter kit that contains a merry mix of MK products at only P1,975.

The facial worth P500 comes with every business card given by an MK beauty consultant, because the company wants the products to speak for themselves.

Rose Fernandez, a senior sales director, said many women who had the MK facial liked that it brightened up their faces, and ended up buying products or selling them.

She should know, because that was what happened to her. Fernandez hails from Naga City in Bicol and has made it her Mary Kay market.

"I even recruited a battered wife and a wife of a seaman," said Sally Maquiling, a sales director from Cagayan de Oro. Joining Mary Kay has changed these women's lives, she said, because it gave them a chance to start anew and have a career that empowers them. "Now they are two of my most hardworking consultants," she said.

Rewards are aplenty for deserving ladies, and these come in the prettiest forms: bejeweled pins, diamond jewelry, the famous pink cars, and trips abroad such as this one. "We give gifts these women usually don't buy for themselves," Mercado said.

Rewarding trip

And on this trip, they enjoyed the fruits of their labor. After two days of "classes" or seminar-workshops, the Philippine group enjoyed their last day touring Hangzhou. They went to serene West Lake, Hangzhou's famous tourist spot, the nearby Six Harmonies Pagoda and the Lingyin Buddhist Temple. In the evening, they saw a song-and-dance performance, "The Romance of the Song Dynasty," which even made some of them cry "because it was so beautiful." Many in the group were China virgins.

This year holds another first for Mary Kay Philippines, as it eagerly awaits the announcement of its first-ever national sales director (NSD) since MK was established here in May 2000. The NSD position is a most coveted one, but getting there entails a climb more difficult than the scaling the Great Wall at -4°C.

It's a mean feat to have eight directors below you, and more below them. But then again, you can earn about half a million a month in return.

"The true leaders are the NSDs. They are the Mary Kays after she's gone," said Holl.

Before putting up her own company, Mary Kay herself broke sales records and became NSD in a direct-selling company. She retired after 25 years in corporate sales and having been bypassed for promotion in favor of the men. That's when she began building a company that would provide women like her more opportunities.

"We don't sell just cosmetics, we sell a way of life," said Chua of the Mary Kay culture. "We are very excited about the Philippines because the sales force has this go-give spirit."

This go-give spirit means giving without expecting something in return, another principle the late Mary Kay advocated. A Miss Go-Give is voted by the consultants themselves each year, and Mercado said this award is considered a prestigious gift because "it's not something you can buy with sales."

At Mary Kay's biggest banquet in Asia so far, with the sales directors dressed in their finest, grandson Ryan said, "Mary Kay would have taken pictures with all of them [700-plus delegates] if she were here."

And what a picture it would be—all these beautiful ladies, sparkling with the diamond pins they proudly wore as badges of honor, brightening up even the foggiest of days.

Mary Kay Philippines' head office is at Bldg. 2 La Fuerza Compound, 2241 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City. Call 8596211 or visit www.marykay.com.ph

E-mail the author at alopez@inquirer. com.ph

Bike maker to the world

CHONGQING IS THE BIGGEST city in South West China, the fourth largest city after Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. It has a population of about 35 million.

Known as the Fog City, it is covered with a thick layer of fog for an average of 68 days a year, usually in spring or autumn.

Chongqing is widely acknowledged as the largest industrial and economic center in China. It accounts for half of the world's motorbike production.

But it is also known for its cultural heritage and tourist attractions. It has parks, lush gardens and picnic spots, offering an endless variety of recreational, environmental and cultural activities for everyone.

One of the popular tourist places is Eling Park at Changjiang Lu, Yuzhong district. Originally called Edingling (Goose Nape Hill) for its narrow and steep shape, the park was built in 1909.

It was originally the home of Lee, a rich businessman. Also known as Courteous Park, it now boasts of special plants and a new tower, Liangjiang Pavilion, offering a view of the entire city.

The Eling Park is a favorite place for recreation and relaxation in the city, letting one get close to nature. It is also ideal for outdoor exercises like tai chi.

Chongqing is famous for its hot Szechuan cuisine and hotpot dishes. Street vendors, as well as restaurants, offer exciting spicy delicacies for people with adventurous palates.

STREET food is deeply ingrained in Chinese culture. BELLE BONDOC

ELING Park is ideal for outdoor exercises like tai chi. BELLE BONDOC

保利国际影城
银泰百货

CHONGQING is making a name for itself as a place for great shopping. BELLE BONDOC

Connecting a billion people

From page G4

includes e-mail support as well as mobile Internet access via a Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) browser. With WAP, users can send and receive e-mail, surf some websites and access news.

The model has a rubberized finish for better grip and comfort plus a color display with mirrored finish.

The Nokia 1112 is designed specifically for first-time users. Known as the "made for India phone," it has simplified display menus and a graphic phonebook for simple navigation. It has a speaking clock with alarm that announces the time in local languages. It is also enhanced with MP3-grade ring tones.

According to Rauno Granath, director for new growth markets, the Nokia 1100 series, to which this model belongs, has been a hit in India and elsewhere, selling 100 million units globally since its launch, chiefly because of its simple and uncomplicated features.

New solutions

To better serve the needs of low-income consumers, Nokia has started licensing its Prepaid Tracker technology. This feature, present in new-entry phones, automatically updates the user phone on its remaining prepaid balance and call expenses.

Subscribers can also view information on the account's expiration date, cost of the last call or SMS, and amount of last prepaid recharge.

A survey conducted by Informa Telecoms & Media in February showed about 70 percent of mobile subscribers in new growth markets were prepaid users.

"These consumers are after cost-control," said Granath. "They are budget consumers. This is why we're introducing the Prepaid Tracker to help these people monitor and control their call expenses."

A new feature, the Nokia Connect Market Expansion Toolkit, will encourage low-spending consumers to make their calls outside of peak hours for more affordable pricing.

"We believe that the right combination of mobile designs, network solutions, wide coverage and services plus a favorable regulatory environment are essential in providing the benefits of mobility to consumers," said Granath.

E-mail the author at bbondoc @inquirer.com.ph

More Asians set to travel this year

OUTBOUND TRAVEL WILL CONTINUE TO boom in Asia in spite of rising interest rates, higher oil prices and persisting economic uncertainties.

This finding is among the results of MasterCard International's MasterIndex of Travel report. The report forecasts the continued growth of outbound travelers from markets across the Asia-Pacific in the first half of 2006, with the Philippines having the highest predicted year-on-year growth at 13.5 percent.

The MasterIndex of Travel encompasses a six-month forecast of outbound travel for 12 markets covering Australia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand.

Besides the forecast of outbound travel, a survey of business and personal travel trends among the urban middle class, with Vietnam included since 2004, was also conducted. The survey was conducted between Oct. 15 and Nov. 4, 2005, with a total of 5,404 consumers participating.

Besides the Philippines, the MasterIndex of Travel also predicts strong growth from Malaysia (11.2 percent). Significant growth is also expected from Australia (9.5 percent), China (9.0 percent), Japan (8.0 percent) and Korea (7.8 percent).

"Our latest outbound travel forecasts are consistent with our analysis of the long-term outlook of outbound travel. It has been firmly entrenched in Asia-Pacific as part of the urban middle-class lifestyle," observed Dr. Yuwa Hedrick-Wong, economic advisor to MasterCard International in Asia-Pacific.

Dr. Hedrick-Wong further pointed out that "personal travel has not only taken off in Asia, but the market is undergoing a dynamic process of segmentation. Observed trends in personal travel suggest that Asian travelers are coalescing into distinct market segments, each underpinned with different lifestyles and unique preferences, and businesses will be successful only if they can meet the challenge of market segmentation."

The survey report shows that intra-regional travel remains popular with both personal and business travelers. Personal travelers named destinations in Asia-Pacific (84 percent) as their top choice for travel, above destinations in Europe (34 percent) and North America (26 percent).

Similarly for business travelers, destinations in the Asia-Pacific (86 percent) emerged as being the most frequented, compared to destinations in Europe (13 percent) and North America (11 percent).

Mirroring findings from the previous report, Japan and Australia continue to remain attractive destinations for personal travelers. Japan (28 percent vs 25 percent six months ago), however, edges slightly ahead of Australia (24 percent vs 27 percent six months ago) to become the most popular destination for personal travel for the six months ahead.

In terms of business travel, China (27 percent) and Singapore (20 percent) remain firmly entrenched as the most frequently visited destinations in Asia-Pacific.

The results also reinforce the growth of women in the personal travel spac, 40 percent of females polled as compared to 34 percent of all male respondents have taken a personal trip in the past year.

Summer fun continues

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA CORP. has lined up activities for kids and the whole family with its "Summer @ The Shang" until May.

Activities include workshops by Shang's retail partners, fashion shows and cultural performances like concerts, book festival and dance recital.

Among those to be featured are the Samba-Likhaan Full Symphonic Band, May 6; San Miguel Master Chorale with the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra, May 13-14; and the Woodwind Quintet, May 21.

Children's fashion shows featuring the young models of Gingersnaps and Trumpets will be held May 7 and 28, respectively.

Call 6337851 to 70.

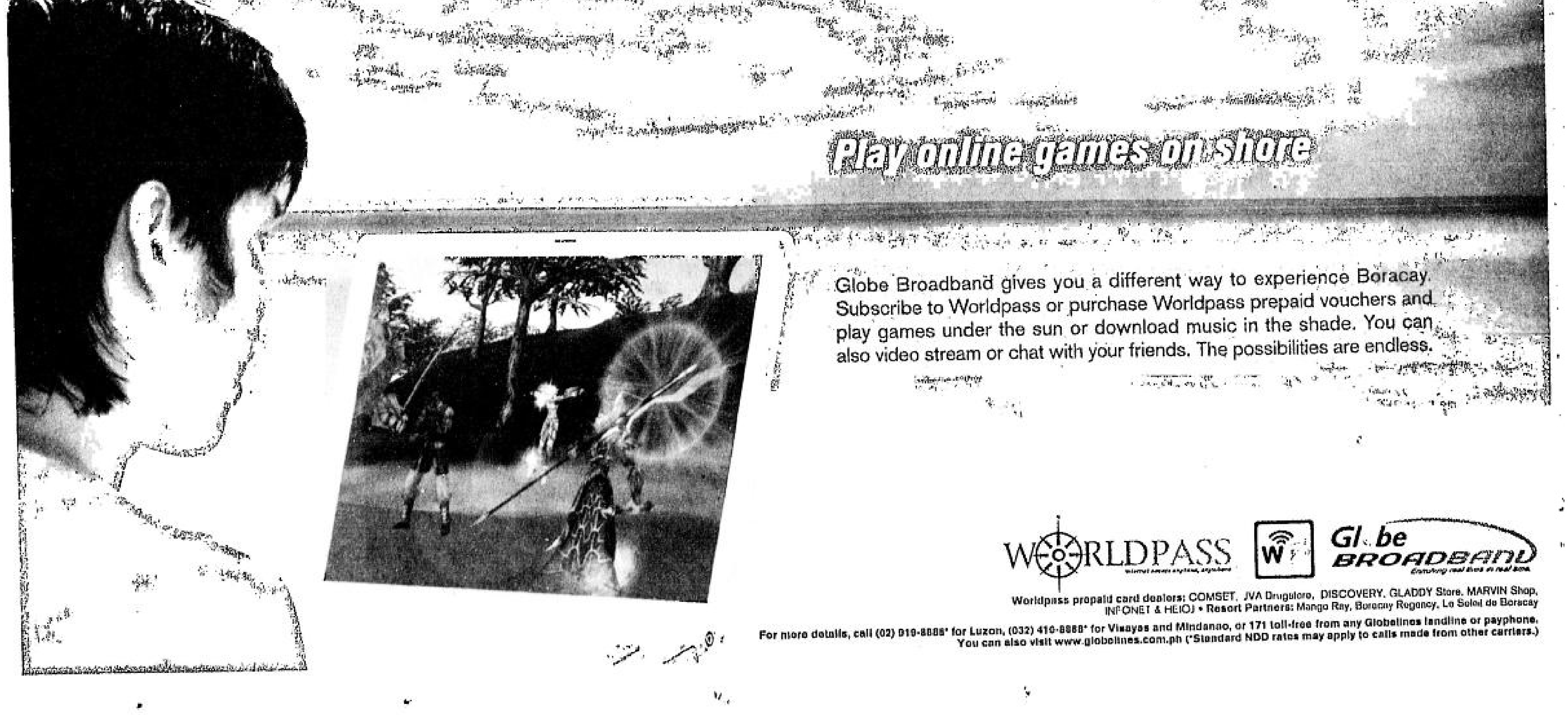
Meanwhile Westgate Alabang, presents "Ridez" on May 5, at Westgate Auto Center in Filinvest Corporate City, as part of its month-long "Motors in May" event, presented in cooperation with Southside Custom.

A car show will feature young matinee idol Oyo Boy Sotto and his low-rider collection and the Southside Customs family's car collection.

An after-party event will feature Nathan J., Jocelyn, Miss Hawaiian Tropic 2004, Turbulence, Nimbus 9, Pikaso and break dancers. DJs Phatbone and Kimozave will host.

In the Poker Challenge, prizes will include Wire wheel rims, discount coupons and gift certificates from Gameworx, and gift packs from sponsors.

Visit westgate@filinvestcorpcity.com or call 8503516.



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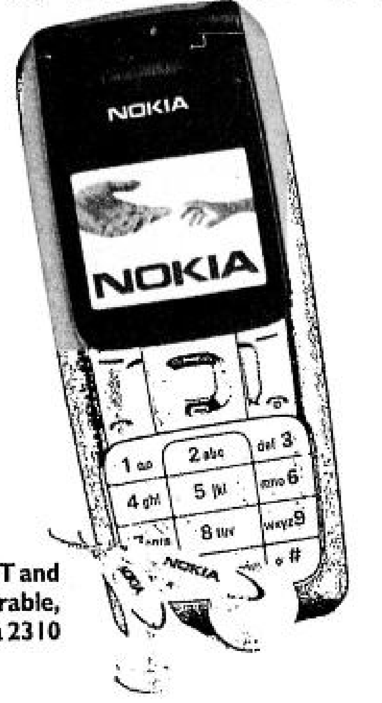
Connecting a billion people



LIGHT and durable, Nokia 2310

By Belle V. Bondoc

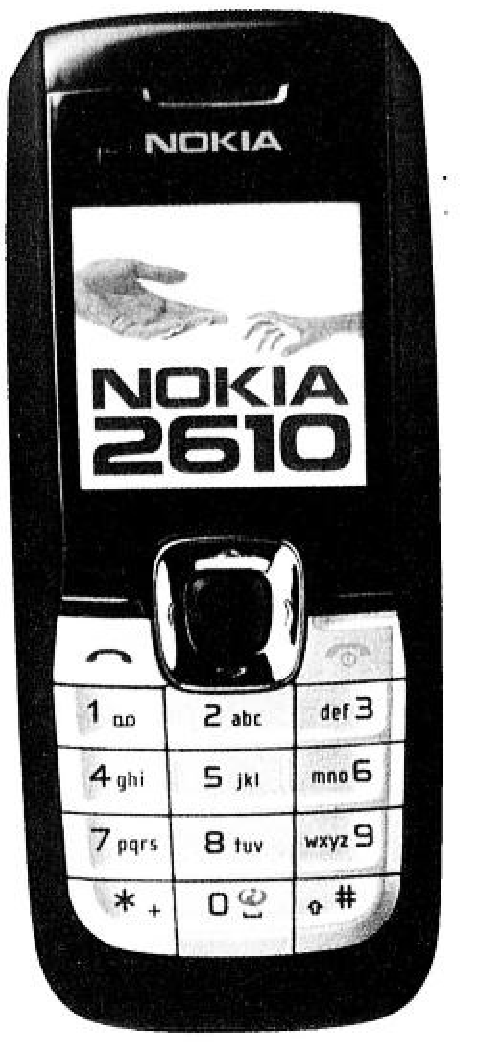
IT SEEMED AN UNLIKELY place for a lavish event. Though many of the over 400 guests from around the world might not have heard of Chongqing before, there was no doubt the city had heard of the event host, Nokia.

The world's leading phone-maker decided to launch its new entry phones in Chongqing, apparently as part of its effort to further strengthen its position in the country that has become its largest market globally.

The launch was attended by key executives from Nokia, network operators and retailers, as well as media representatives from different countries.

NOKIA executives Rauno Granath, Alex Lambeek and Antonio Torres BELLE BONDOC

Nokia's choice of a launch pad for its new phones reflects its goal to capture the huge China market



The cocktail party celebrating the theme of mobility and creative freedom was held under a gigantic tent, the luxurious setup giving guests that chi-chi Oscar red-carpet feel, complete with spotlights and paparazzi.

The Finnish company still sees a lot of potential in China though Nokia "has become the clear leader for mobile handset," said Soren Petersen, SVP for Entry Business Unit.

A 2005 survey conducted by Nokia showed sales volume for mobile phones in China increasing by 72 percent, with 32.5 billion units sold, solidifying China's position as the brand's largest market globally.

Nokia is projecting a 36-percent growth in its global subscribers' market in 2008, reaching three billion from last year's 2.2 billion.

"Asia Pacific and China will [account for] 50 percent of the estimated growth," said Alex Lambeek, VP for Apac Mobile Phones, sales and market operations.

The market growth is probably due to the fact that Nokia has managed to remain at the forefront of innovative design and quality products, making it one of the most trusted mobile phone brands worldwide.

Evolving

Nokia products continue to evolve, its designs aimed at satisfying the ever-changing needs of consumers, providing almost everyone with the ideal phone for his or her lifestyle.

Thus, Nokia's design team is always faced with a challenge. Each generation of Nokia products has to have a higher level of usefulness, comfort and performance to keep consumer satisfaction at the highest level.

Nokia phones are designed for ease of use and learning. These qualities are evident in the three entry phones launched in Chongqing, made especially for first-time and low-income consumers.

"The new growth market includes those who never had mobile phones before, [really] first-time users," said Lambeek. "Primarily, people in most parts of China and India."

To get these people connected, the new Nokia entry phones have also been made more affordable.

The company's market research shows a big percentage of the population in the new growth markets earns US$50-100 a month. These people are willing to use only five to 10 percent of their monthly salaries to get a mobile phone.

Antonio Torres, director for business development and industry marketing, said that "for low-income consumers, our [main] objective is to reduce the total cost of mobile phone ownership to US$5 per month, while ensuring a profitable and sustainable business models for operators and retailers."

Entry phones

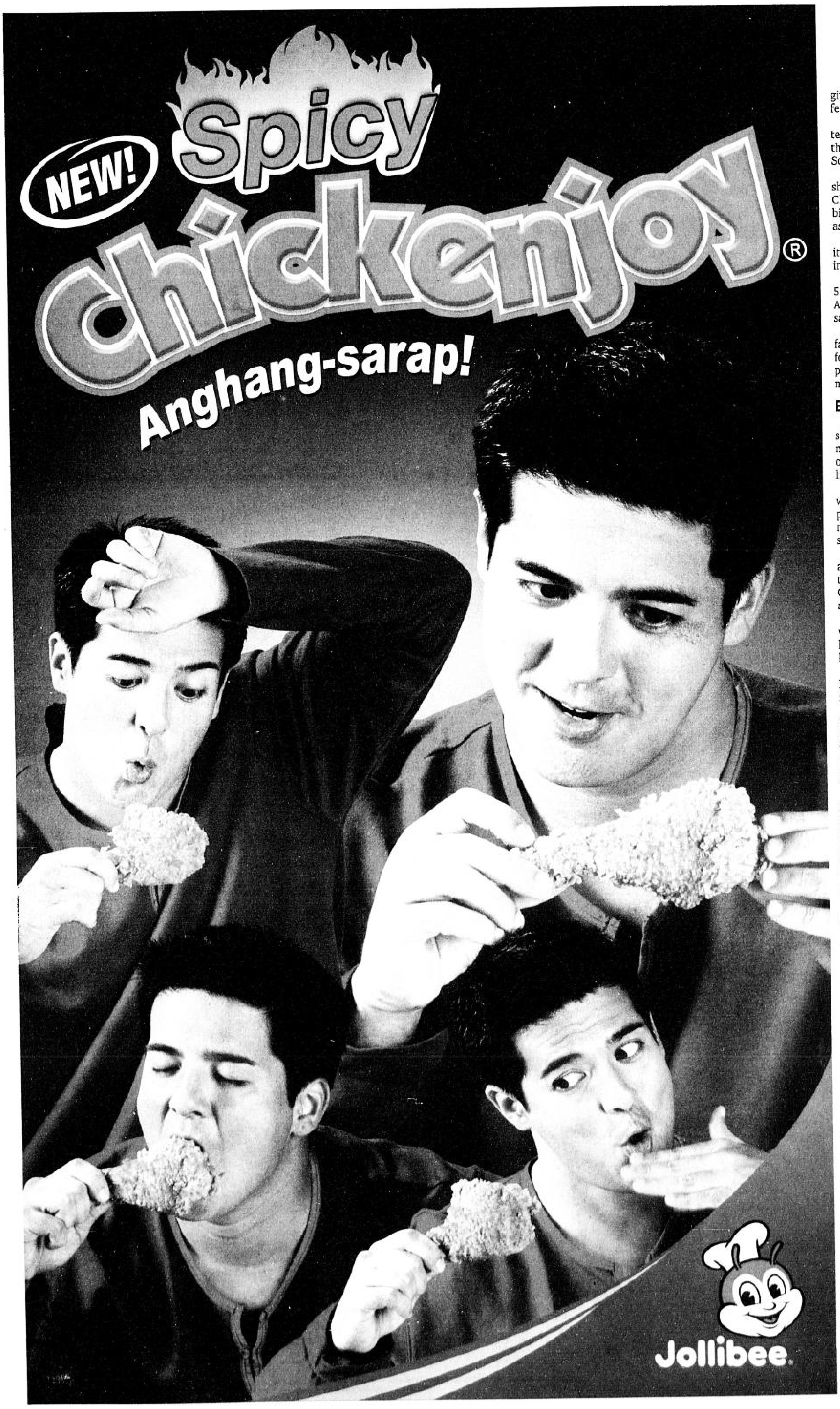
The Nokia design team had to create something exciting to cater to the needs of these new growth markets. They came up with the three new models scheduled for release anytime soon.

The Nokia 2310 is for music lovers, particularly young and stylish individuals. It has an FM radio shortcut key and radio over hands-free speaker, polyphonic and MP3-grade ring tones.

The phone is enhanced with an SMS editor to avoid accidental deletions of messages as well as a speed dial for SMS sending.

The Nokia 2610 has a voice-recording function. It is equipped with MP3 ring tones and has an integrated hands-free speaker. It

CONNECTING/ G3



ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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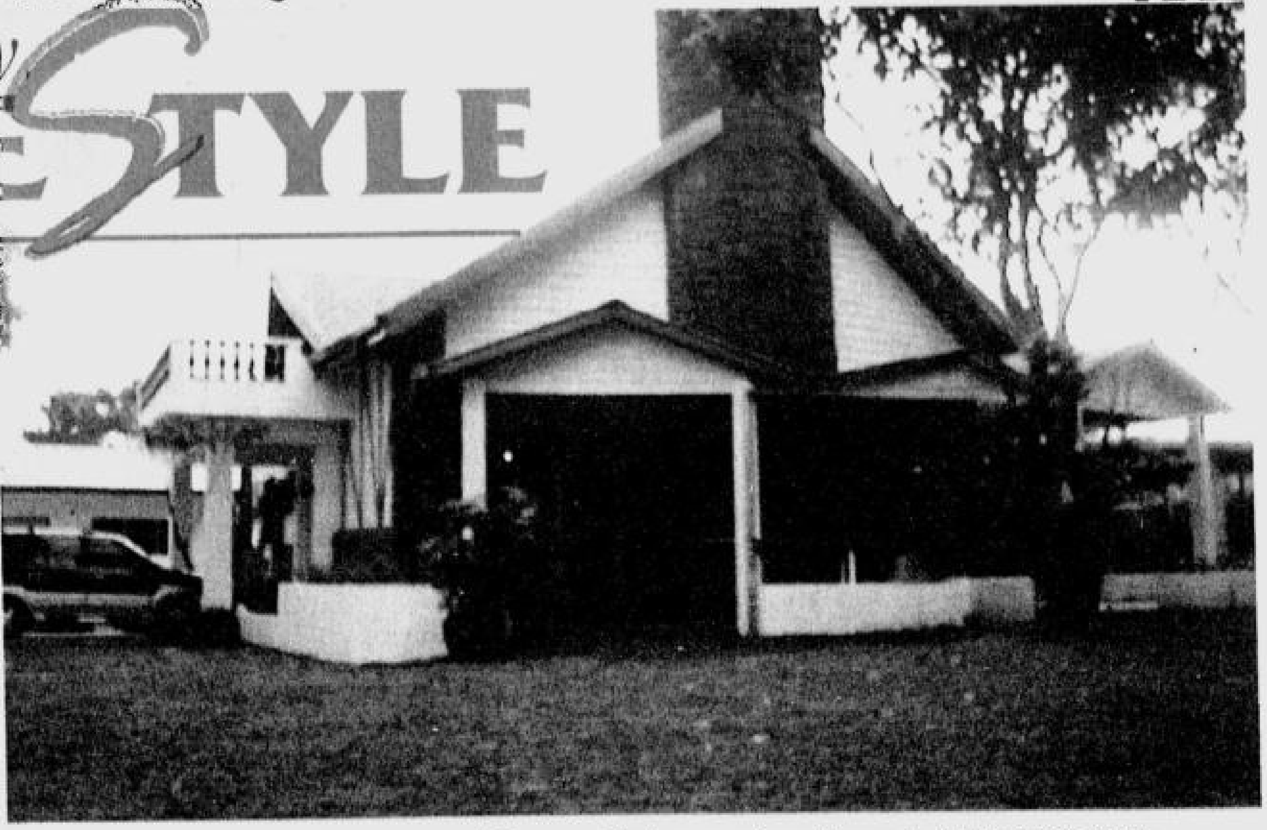
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday LifeStyle

Once 'lost sheep' is now a 'shepherd'



PHOENIX Ridge, the rehabilitation center in Tagaytay City, is more a home than an institution for its wards.

Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido

THEY ARE PARENTS AND children, executives and laborers, professionals and students. Drug users no longer lend themselves easily to profiling. They span age groups, social and economic status.

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) reported last year that at least two million Filipino workers were hooked on illegal drugs and the number was rapidly rising. Some 30 percent of the estimated 6.7 million drug users throughout the country were young and educated, according to Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson.

So widespread is the problem of drug use and abuse that there is no telling who suffers from it.

Before he entered the seminary, Fr. Flavi was among those people whose troubles seemed too much to bear. The altar boy turned to drugs to escape. But, like others before him, he realized when he got hooked that his "solution" only compounded his problems.

Now a full-fledged priest, Fr. Flavi is helping others like him heal themselves. He is the spiritual director of The Rising Phoenix Foundation Inc., a therapeutic center for the treatment and rehabilitation of substance dependency and other related disorders, in Tagaytay City.

Prepared

Fr. Flavi thinks his descent into the sordid world of drug abuse helped prepare him for his current role as spiritual adviser of substance users, as well as his other priestly duties.

He is much more able to relate to laymen, better able to understand the struggle they have to wage to survive and cope with life's difficulties. After all, if a man, whose faith is strong enough to lead to priesthood, can succumb to the false promise of bliss offered by drugs, how much chance is there for troubled souls with weak spiritual grounding?

The new priest is one of several reformed substance abusers involved in the center's rehabilitation work. To Fr. Flavi, three of the founders of the center, and several staff members, the oft-repeated saying "been there, done that," is not just a witticism. They have really been there and done that—drug use and abuse—so they know whereof they speak.

They are alumni of different rehab centers, some have even gone facility-shopping, so to speak, unable to find exactly the kind of help they need.

Empathy

Recovering dependents José Maria Diaz, Bernard I. Termulo and Oliviere T. Belmonte, who founded Phoenix together with Eduardo P. Rocha and Fernando M. David, do not promise a miracle cure but they can guarantee professional care from experts and trained personnel, understanding, compassion and, best of all perhaps, empathy for those who seek the center's help.

The foundation runs a rehabilitation center, Phoenix Ridge, at 6275 JP Rizal Ave., Mendez Crossing East, Tagaytay City.

One important aspect of the center's rehabilitation program is getting the parents, the whole family and even the community involved. After all, drug users will not return to a vacuum after rehabilitation. They have to reconnect with family, friends, society. A less than welcoming home and less supportive community can undo whatever progress they may have made.

For one young Phoenix resident, at least, just reopening communication lines with his family is already significant. "I stopped talking to my father a long time ago," the boy said. But with Phoenix making the family a very important participant in the rehabilitation process, the boy said he finally talked to his father again, openly and candidly, holding very little back. A huge weight was lifted off his shoulder and now he knows there is a loving home to return to when he completes the Phoenix program.

Like the mythological bird that burns itself completely then rises again from its ashes, stronger and more beautiful, Phoenix Foundation wishes the same for drug users under its care.

The Rising Phoenix Foundation Inc. is at 2/F, 209 Aguirre Ave., BF Homes, Parañaque City. Call 8266166 and 8258604. E-mail rphoenix5@yahoo.com

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SMART Kid SIM is now available in Rustan Supermarkets!

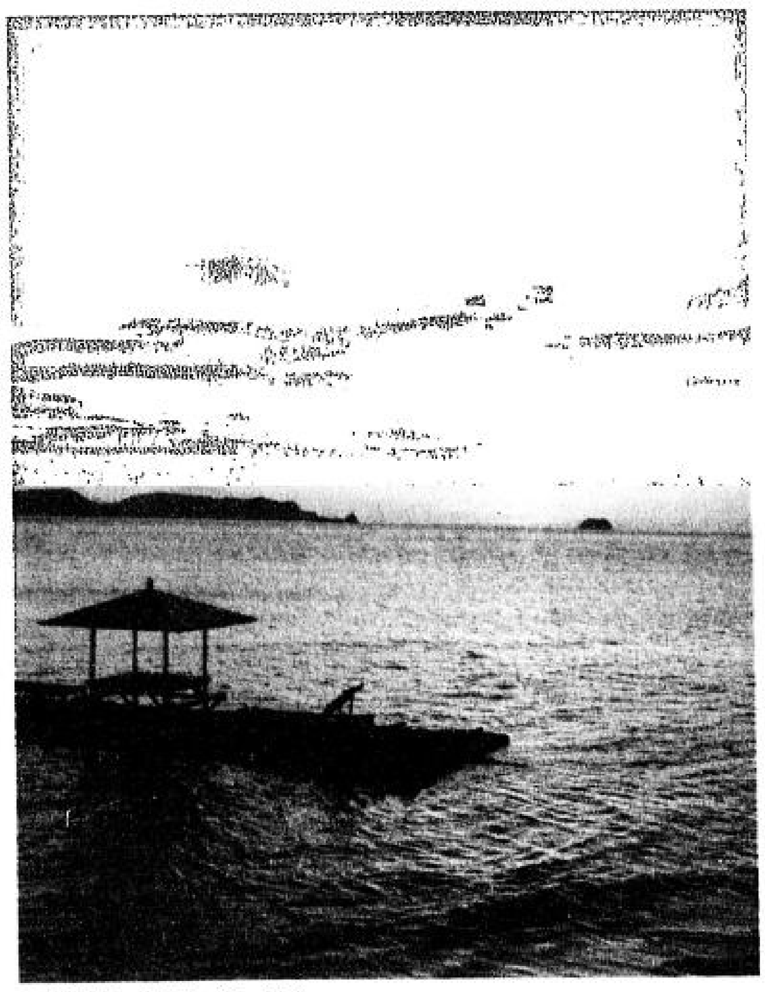
Get one now and get a FREE Brick Game plus a chance to win one (1) of 30 Birthday Party Certificates worth P5,000 each from McDonald's -- where every birthday celebration is an experience your kid will always remember.

Available at all Rustan Supermarkets nationwide.

See posters for details.

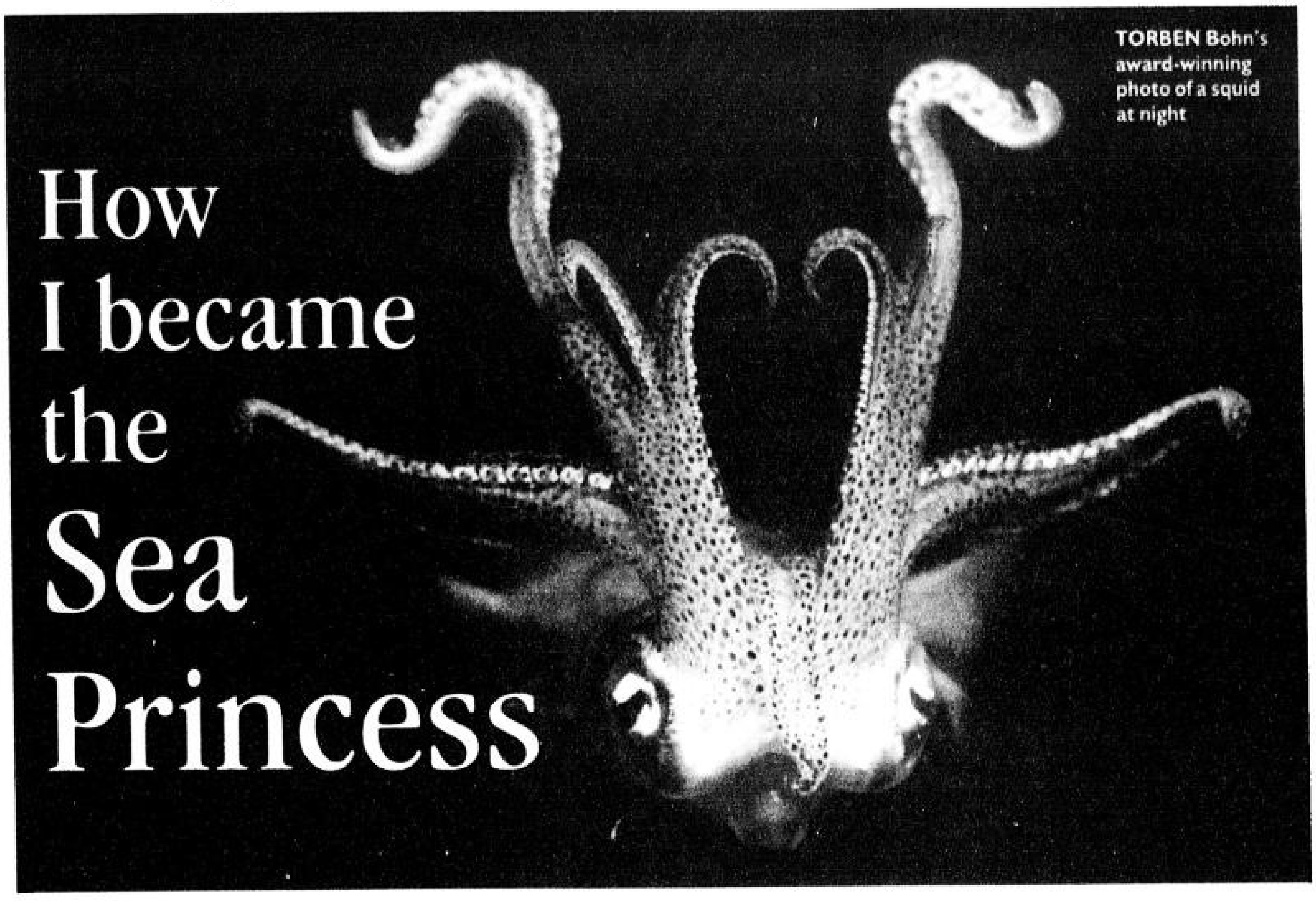
Questions? Comments? Concerns? Call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, or call *888 (toll free), email us at smartkid@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

Promo Period: April 25 - July 23, 2006
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0838, Series of 2006.



SUNSET at idyllic Dive Solana

How I became the Sea Princess



TORBEN Bohn's award-winning photo of a squid at night

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

MY LOVE AFFAIR WITH the underwater world started more than 15 years ago. As a single mom then, I spent weekends either scuba diving with friends or searching for bigger fish in the "happening" scene of Malate. In that era, Greenbelt and the Fort were still grasslands, and the hippest gadget was the pager!

With my Assumption high school best friend **Tessa Alindogan**, we took scuba-diving lessons with instructor **Gigi Santos** (contact 0917-8333663), who is also the instructor of President **GMA** and who will finally open her own dive shop—the Pacifica Dive Center in Alabang. I instantly got hooked on scuba, from the pool sessions to our final checkout dive in Anilao, Batangas.

Of my original group, I was the one who became totally passionate about diving. I started dressing like a typical Japanese diver with neon colors and matching gear. I bought tanks with neon-colored mesh and tank bangers in the most luminous shades.

Diving in style was my motto and I would glow in the water if I could. I figured that to be one with the amazingly colorful myriad of marine life, shocking colored wetsuits were in order.

There's just no stopping progress in other ways! From tech advances in scuba gear to the quality of the roads going to Anilao, diving has only gotten better. In 15 years of diving, I not only met my scuba instructor/husband **Dennis** (he actually taught Gigi to dive) but I have become the reigning Sea Princess.

Thus, there was no way I could say no when instructor **Joel Uichico** asked me to attend the MAD about US photo contest. The full name of the event is a mouthful—the Mabini-Tingloy Digital Underwater Shootout—and its mission is to make people mad enough about underwater conservation, developing resources to protect the sea and providing training and livelihood to the local area residents.

> Diving in style was my motto. I figured that to be one with the amazingly colorful myriad of marine life, shocking colored wetsuits were in order

ANILAO sailors Ichay and Raul Bulaong

PRINCE of Philippine Fashion Inno Sotto surrounded by his stunning models

DYNAMIC Rajo Laurel poses with his muses after his show.

Underwater tourism is the big winner of the contest, of course! An international cast of participants entered the photo contest. The "Best in Show Category," which won a trip to Tubbataha on board the Tri-Star, was won by German **Torben Bohn** with his dramatic photo of a squid.

To give a fair chance to all levels of photographers, Joel got renowned underwater photographers like **Gutsy Tuason, Marissa Floriendo, Dodo Cu-unjieng** and **Yvette Lee** to be the judges. Gutsy and Dodo's photography book called "Anilao" (available in all major bookstores) has won the Photography Book plum at the Phil. National Book Awards and the Grand Prize for Books at the World Festival of Underwater Images in Antibes, France.

The contest was launched last month at Eagle Point Resort. Expert diver and conservationist Joel's premiere goal was to raise funds to train and develop world-class local dive masters, dive guides and tourism workers.

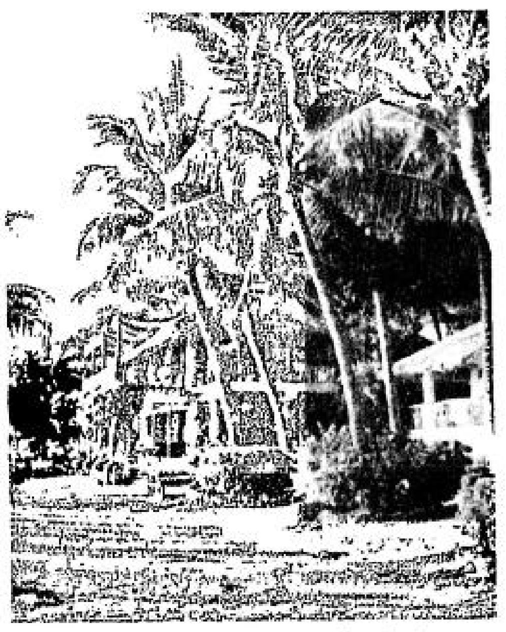
Much to offer

Just recently, relaxingly beautiful Dive Solana (contact 0912-3400392) hosted several underwater photographers from National Geographic to document nudibranchs. Anilao has indeed so much to offer and with its close proximity to Manila, donning your gear and jumping into the water is just too easy.

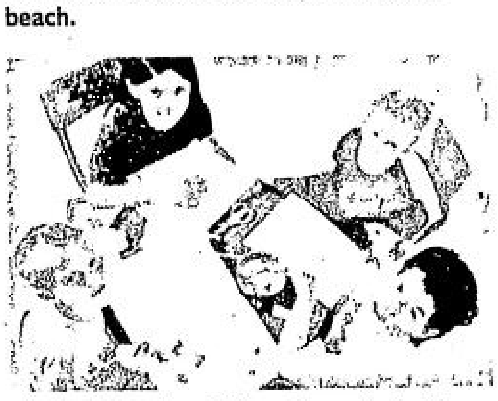
Sponsored by STI of Tanauan and Batangas City, Globe Wireless and supported by various resorts in Mabini, the contest had a successful beginning. This year, on May 10 and 11, the first fruit of the contest will be ready—a seminar in underwater guiding, titled "Livelihood from Guiding Underwater Photographers." Nonoy Tan has unselfishly offered his time and expertise for this endeavor.

Dive Solana was leased by former INQUIRER columnist **Bea Zobel Jr.** and Joel. Together they converted it into an upscale resort with all the wonderful ethnic touches. The homey feel provided by picture frames, embroidered bedspreads, decorative murals and seascape artwork make anyone's stay in this resort so pleasant.

According to Bea, most of the furnishings were made in the different regions of the Philippines, and the best part is, the resort has a little corner shop so visitors can bring home some items.



DIVE Solana features homey villas by the beach.



LEARN French at Alliance Française's "Fun French Summer" until May 19.

Packed show

I have been encouraging my mainstay fashion designer **Rajo Laurel** to get into diving for the numerous colorful inspirations he can get. At the recent Runway Productions' Philippine Fashion Week 06, Rajo had a solo premier fashion show of his collection shown abroad.

His loyal clients packed the NBC Tent to view his dynamic collection. In any fashion emergency, Rajo always comes to my rescue. For the latest haute-couture show of **Inno Sotto**, Rajo converted one of his long ball skirts into an empire-cut gown for me in less than an hour.

Just as I sat down at the mile-long fashion ramp at the Tower One & Exchange Plaza Garden, the show opened with perfectly tailored, bright ensembles with floral cutouts and voluminous gowns in vibrant colors. The brilliance and genius of Inno once again shone throughout the evening.

Even if the summer evening was hot and humid, I felt so fresh, having come in just in time for the show. Thanks to super gentleman editor **Anton San Diego**, we even got the best seats in the garden.

Fashion is what this month is all about. At the Ayala Museum, the art exhibit featuring Christian Lacroix Haute Couture is ongoing until the first week of May. For anyone interested in arts and fashion, this is a must-see exhibit brought here by the Alliance Française de Manille, in partnership with the French Embassy.

With so many options for activities for kids this summer, I would recommend a second language. Teach a kid before the age of 13 and he is likely to speak it like a native. This summer, check out the Alliance Française (contact 8957585 or 8957441) for kids' courses in French. *Bonne journee!*

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

BEA Zobel Jr. uses Philippine-made handicrafts throughout the resort.

MAD About US judges Dodo Cu-unjieng, Marissa Floirendo and Gutsy Tuason

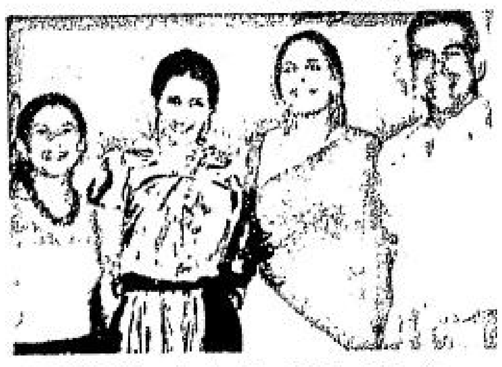
AVID divers Berta and Ting Feliciano

ANILAO homeowners Marlyn and Tony Lilles

UPCOMING Cebu designer Ronald Villaluz and Runway Productions' Joey Espino Jr.

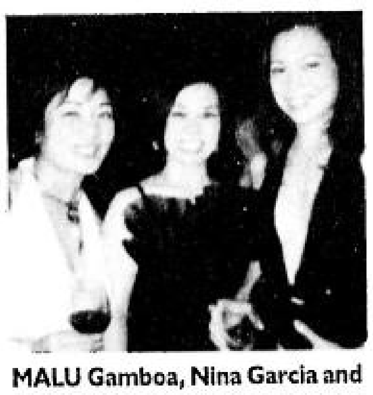
COOSOME twosome Archie Rodriguez and Bea Valdes

AYALA Museum guest Philip Cu-unjieng, museum head Nina Baker, AFM director Olivier Dintinger and Yves Sabourin, curator of the Christian Lacroix "Dialogues!"



GIANNA Montinola, Lizzie Zobel, Sevrine Mialhe and Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala

PEARL lovers Margarita Delgado, Lizzie Zobel and Mia Borromeo



MALU Gamboa, Nina Garcia and Mandy Santos

DIVE Solana owners Bea Zobel Jr. and Joel Uichico

FUN and fab Sofia and Patxi Elizalde

An evening of romantic piano with Ingrid Santamaria

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

THE CEBU-BASED PEACE Philharmonic of the Philippines (PPP) opened its 2006 concert season with a full house at the Atlantic ballroom of the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel.

It was dubbed "Romanticism and the Piano" as it featured three composers of that era: **Richard Wagner, Frederick Chopin** and **Edward MacDowell.** The latter was the first US-born composer to be considered an equal of his European contemporaries.

On this occasion, the PPP was conducted by maestro **Eugene Castillo,** of Filipino descent but born and raised in California. He is now the music director and principal conductor of the Phil. Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO) in Manila. A round of applause greeted him as he mounted the podium for the first number, Wagner's "Siegfried Idyll." Wagner wrote it as a surprise birthday gift for his wife, **Cosma Lizst.**

Dr. **Ingrid Sala Santamaria,** PPP's artistic director, was featured in the concert's next two highlights as piano soloist. First was Chopin's Concerto No. 1 in E Minor. Ingrid had specially commissioned the arrangement to professor **Jeffrey Solares,** the PPP's director for studies and current resident conductor of the PPO in Manila.

The accompaniment was performed by the PPP's string quartet of which Jeffrey is a member. The rest are multi-awarded members of the PPP, like violinists **Brian Cimafranca** and **Sara Gonzalez,** and cellist **Gerry Gonzalez.** They are all based in Manila now for their studies and frequently perform on signal occasions and events.

MacDowell's Piano Concerto No. 2 in D Minor was the grand finale. The PPP did full justice to this wondrous composition. Ingrid excelled herself in virtuosity and passion which, along with great dexterity, are requirements to render this concerto at its best.

There was a standing ovation when it concluded, with shouts of "bravo" and "encore" from the enthusiastic audience, estimated at around 1,000. There stood Ingrid, ethereally beautiful, regal in a violet terno, and one sensed she had something to say: "We will do an encore, the second movement."

The kudos were as much for maestro Castillo, Dr. Ingrid, professor Jeffrey, Brian, Sara and Gerry as they were for everyone who performed that evening. They were the following:

First violins–**Princess Christine Ybañaz, Ebb Lawrence Galindo, Joseph Franz Lanzaderas,** and **Melissa Cipres**; second violins–**Marie Antoinette Gorgonio** (she happens to have a nice singing voice), **Reggie Marie Parajes, Nigel Abarquez, Adrian Beltran** and **Jun-Rey Parajes**; violas–**Joseph Patrick Balo** and **Genevieve Galindo**; cellos–**Jibbie Rose Reyes** and **Ma. Doris Malaque**; bass–**Virgilio Ylaya**; flutes–**Martin Alvarez** and **Shiela Tapispisan**; oboe–**Nino Benares**; bassoon–**Ariel Perez** and **Magno Aquino**; horns–**Mark Melecio** and **Basilio Sable**; trumpet–**Reydon Encinares**; trombone–**Bjorn Gaviola**; and keyboards–**Joseph Abella.**

Intense summer

Though she is not a performer, credit is due **Cora Quinay** who is with the administrative staff of the Salvador and Pilar Sala Foundation whose headquarters at the old Sala mansion is home to the PPP. Ingrid founded the organization in 1991 to honor her parents who had inspired her and her siblings in their dedication to art and culture, especially music.

This is an intense summer for the PPP as it holds its annual summer camp for young musicians, interspersed with performances to evaluate their progress. Part of the activities is attendance to the PPP concert season.

After the opening concert, there was another show titled "The Reason We Sing," featuring the Reach Singing Ambassadors. Held at SM City Cebu's spacious Theater One, professor **Robert del Rosario** conducted. Guests were soprano **Lisa Cabahug** and tenor **Nolyn Cabahug.** Co-presentor was the Grace Baptist Church to mark the 28th biennial conference of the Association of Fundamental Baptist Churches in the Philippines.

The last concert of the season was dedicated to **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart,** whose 250th birthday is being celebrated throughout 2006. This time, Solares conducted the PPP. In the program was Mozart's delightful Symphony No. 40 and Mendelssohn's Octet, for a very good reason. Mendelssohn's classicism is most often compared to that of Mozart.

The PPP String Quartet based in Manila has given itself a name: Quarteto Espressivo. That created the need for a Cebu-based string quartet, now formed by Lawrence Galindo and **Princess Christine Ybañez,** violins 1 and 2, respectively; Joseph Franz Lanzaderas, viola; and Jibbie Rose Reyes, cello. They gave a beautiful recital all their own at the well-appointed auditorium of the Marcelo Fernan Cebu Press Center.

Of interest to Ingrid's fans here and abroad is a forthcoming book on her by excellent biographer **Chit de la Torre** who came to Cebu for the PPP's opening concert. She did some interviews with people who have known Ingrid through the years, and has promised to be back two or three times more.

What comes to mind first and foremost about Ingrid? For the people of Cebu, she has brought the province its golden era of music, from the time she started creating a youth symphony to its flowering as a full philharmonic group.

> The pianist excelled herself in virtuosity and passion which, along with great dexterity, are requirements to render the concerto at its best

DR. INGRID Sala Santamaria with the Manila-based PPP String Quartet, which calls itself Quarteto Espressivo. From left: Brian Cimafranca, Sara Gonzalez, Ingrid, Gerry Gonzalez and Jeffrey Solares

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Sundays + water + ice!

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Enriched with Vitamins & Minerals
100% RDA of Vitamin C

About ₱3.60 per popsicle!

SUNDAYS JELLY MANGO POPSICLES
INGREDIENTS:
1 litro pack of *Sundays Mango*
1/2 cup boiling water
1 (3 oz.) pkg. unflavored gelatin
1/2 cup cold water
PROCEDURE:
Dissolve unflavored gelatin, *Sundays Mango* in the boiling water. Add the cold water and stir well. Pour into popsicle molds or ice cube trays. Freeze partially, add sticks and freeze until firm, about 2 to 3 hours. Makes about 1 dozen.

For more great ways to chill this summer look for the **Oishi Sundays + Suntea Trial Pack** in leading supermarkets.
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Refreshing iced tea mixes in five fruity flavors.

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PDI-BLSS-SPEEDO FAMILY SUMMER SWIMMING PROMO

Winners to get free swimming lessons

THE APRIL 23 winning family—Julia, Maribeth, Mario and Jose Mari Cruz

THE BETAN FAMILY OF DILIMAN, QUEZON City, and Cruz family of Pasay City are the winners in the PDI-BLSS-Speedo Family Summer Swimming Promo for April 16 and 23, respectively.

Both families will get free swimming lessons from BLSS and swimwear and swimming gear from Speedo.

The Betan family of AA4-104 Hardin ng Rosas, University of the Philippines Diliman, consists of Ariel, Sierra Ma. and Sharon, who sent the winning entry.

The Cruz's entry was sent by Maribeth C. Cruz. The family is composed of, aside from Maribeth, Mario, Julia and Jose Mari.

Winners can claim their prizes at BLSS, 2401 Tejeron St., Sta. Ana, Manila, tels. 0917-700SWIM(7946), 5891982, 563-5532, 5628041.

THE APRIL 16 winning family—Sierra Ma., Sharon and Ariel Betan

(FRONT ROW) Bobby Gonzales, Susan Medina, Danny Dimayuga, and Gerry Bautista, (back row) Analyn Lorayes, Guan Medina, Cynthia Cervantes and Boy Cervantes

Celebrating life, rhythm and good neighborliness

"DESPITE THE CHALLENGES THAT COME our way, this is our time," says Barangay Bel-Air's creative consultant, Susan Medina. "So let's make the most out of each moment."

It is this steadfast optimism that inspired the Bel-Air community's highly anticipated Pasinaya festival for 2006. With the theme "Panahon Natin, Ritmo Natin," the festival not only celebrates the Filipinos' world-renowned sense of rhythm, it also celebrates life and community spirit at its best.

"Approximately 300 residents spanning four generations will be participating in one way or another," says barangay captain Constancia Lichauco. "And more are participating each year. While other communities are thinking of ways to get their members to take part, we are worrying about how to accommodate all the people. But that is a problem we are happy to solve."

Indeed, Bel-Air residents will be in full force this year. Kicking of the celebrations on May 6 are five fiesta bands that will be going around the neighborhood to provide everyone a festive wake-up call.

All roads will then lead to Bel-Air's multipurpose center for the formal opening ceremonies, followed by the partaking of hearty bowls of rice porridge during the Lugawan sa Bel-Air.

Guests and residents alike can score interesting finds at the bazaar as well as treat themselves to a wide variety of culinary treats at the Food Fest. Tired from all that walking? Then take a trip back in time with the free *kalesa* rides prepared specially for the event.

After lunch, watch 40 budding models ages 12 and below showcase children's clothing from Orange Juice. Artists in the making will also be mentored by the respected Saturday Group amid the greens of Bel-Air, and participate in an art contest.

After the anticipated Mass comes the Youth Night, where some of the country's hottest bands will be rocking with Bel-Air's young and young at heart.

Residents pay tribute to their beloved dogs with a canine show on May 7, followed by the exciting Kasanib Binggo, the first prize winner of which brings home P50,000!

Ending the event on a high note will be the cultural night, the culmination of four months of conceptualization and preparation.

Written and directed by Floy Quintos and choreographed by Andrew Ferrariz, 220 residents will be dancing to various OPM tunes through the years, ranging from Bobby Gonzales' "Hahabol-habol," Yoyoy Villame's "Butchikik," to the chart-topping hits of Gary Valenciano.

"Each song will be given a modern twist," says Medina. "It's the first time that most of the participants will be onstage. But they gave it their all during rehearsals, so rest assured that it will be a show to look forward to."

"Practicing twice a week for six weeks has brought everyone closer to one another," says Lichauco. "The show provides everyone with a sense of belonging."

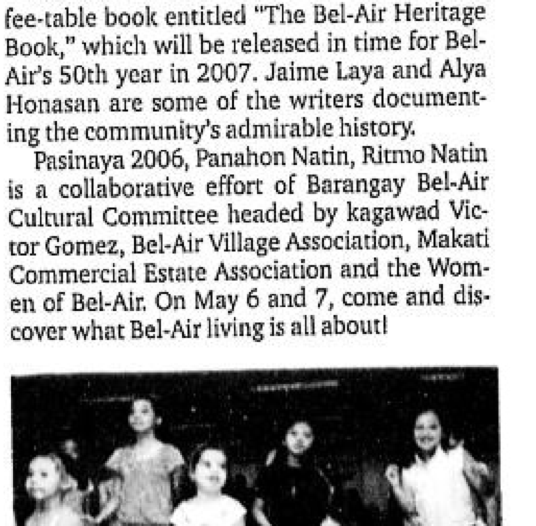
"Rehearsals are also a way for the children to get to know one another and establish friendships," she adds. "These are what their memories of growing up in Bel-Air would be made of."

At the end of the day, this is what the Pasinaya has aimed for ever since it was organized in 1993: to foster a strong bond among the residents.

"The most important outcome of this festival is what we can't see with our eyes," says Lichauco. "It is the solid community structure that we are able to build over the years."

Bel-Air will soon be immortalized via a coffee-table book entitled "The Bel-Air Heritage Book," which will be released in time for Bel-Air's 50th year in 2007. Jaime Laya and Alya Honasan are some of the writers documenting the community's admirable history.

Pasinaya 2006, Panahon Natin, Ritmo Natin is a collaborative effort of Barangay Bel-Air Cultural Committee headed by kagawad Victor Gomez, Bel-Air Village Association, Makati Commercial Estate Association and the Women of Bel-Air. On May 6 and 7, come and discover what Bel-Air living is all about!


BEL-AIR'S "Butchikik" kids

New
RUSH Fitness Water:
Just right for everyday fitness!

You don't have to be an athlete to need fitness and energy. Everyday life is filled with activities that require both!

Climbing stairs, running to a meeting or even tossing things to a friend are the workouts of everyday life. Without the right level of fitness, doing these ordinary physical activities could leave you tired and winded.

Get the right amount of everyday fitness and energy from all new *RUSH Fitness Water!*

Feel the RUSH! It's not as heavy as a sports drink.

New RUSH Fitness Water is a uniquely cool product. It's not for hardcore athletes because unlike any other specialized sports drink, *RUSH Fitness Water* is specifically made to help the average person recharge throughout the day to better meet the challenges of an active, stressful life.

It has less salt than ordinary sports drinks and contains electrolytes - such as sodium and potassium ions - to replenish those body fluids that you lose.

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Addicted to the RUSH! It's better than ordinary water.

Light flavored and non-carbonated, *RUSH Fitness Water* has a more appealing taste than plain water. With more electrolytes than purified water, it keeps the body better hydrated as it provides a more energizing refreshment!

It is also more easily absorbed than ordinary water due to its similar fluid concentration as blood.

Get a RUSH everyday!

RUSH Fitness Water is for people who live regular lives filled with activity. It's for the student who has to run to class then to an org meeting and back again. It's for the executive who has to dash from one meeting to another. It's for the regular Joe who has to run around town, pulling his own weight to succeed in his own field.

RUSH Fitness Water is for national badminton champions, Kennevic and Kennie Asuncion on their days off the court. They know they still need to be fit as they go about their everyday chores and activities.

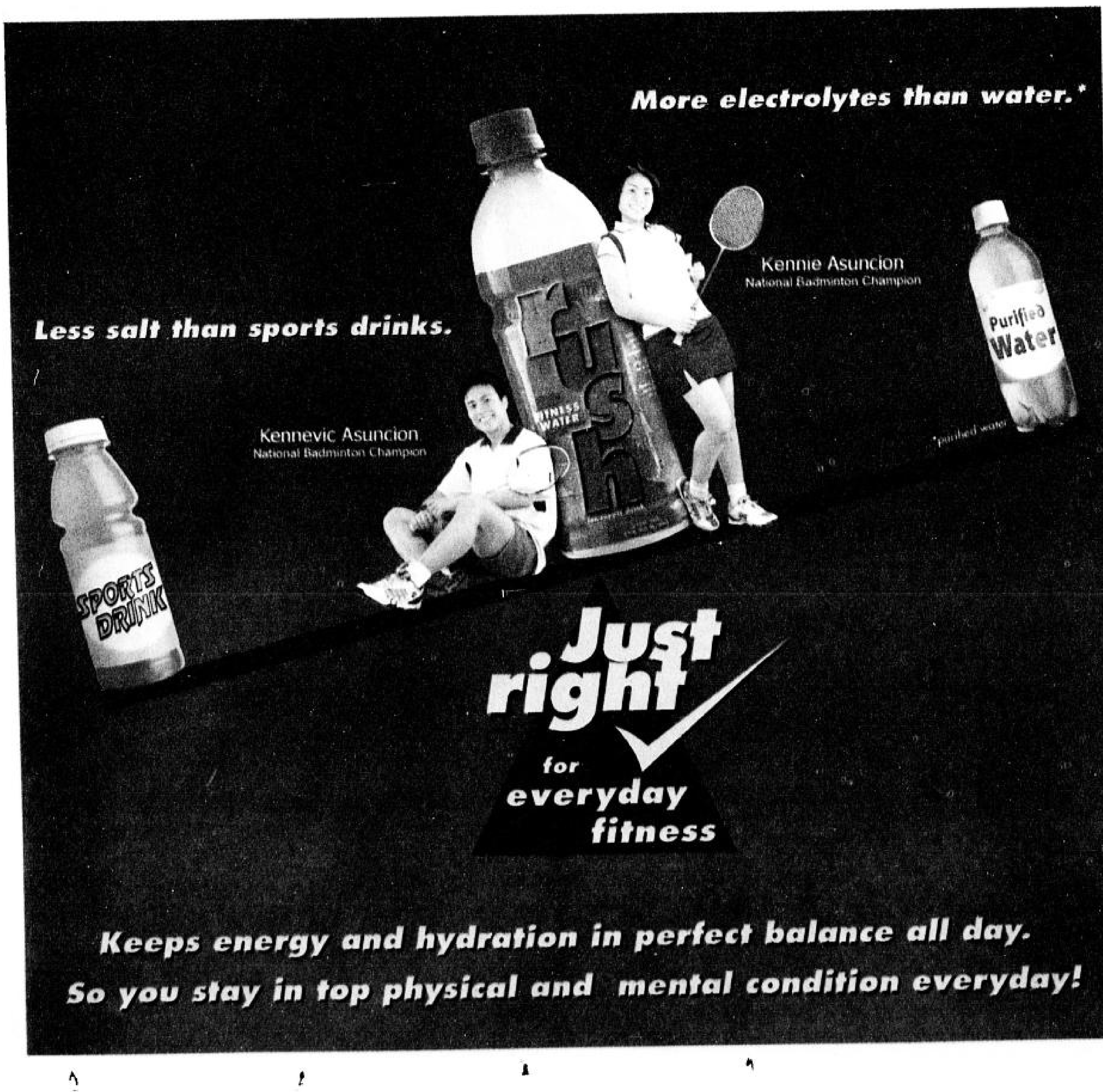
It's for anybody who has to be on top of his or her game of life everyday!

RUSH to your favorite store! It's only P17!

RUSH Fitness Water is a totally new and exciting way to quench everyday thirst. It's available in your favorite convenience stores and supermarkets at the very reasonable price of P17 for a 500 mL bottle!

It comes in a light, resealable PET bottle so it's convenient to take with you throughout your active day.

For everyday fitness, take something that's just right... and feel the *RUSH!*


More electrolytes than water.*
Less salt than sports drinks.
Kennie Asuncion
National Badminton Champion
Kennevic Asuncion
National Badminton Champion
rush
FITNESS WATER
SPORTS DRINK
Purified Water
*purified water
Just right for everyday fitness
Keeps energy and hydration in perfect balance all day.
So you stay in top physical and mental condition everyday!

Sunday LifeStyle

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

at HOME

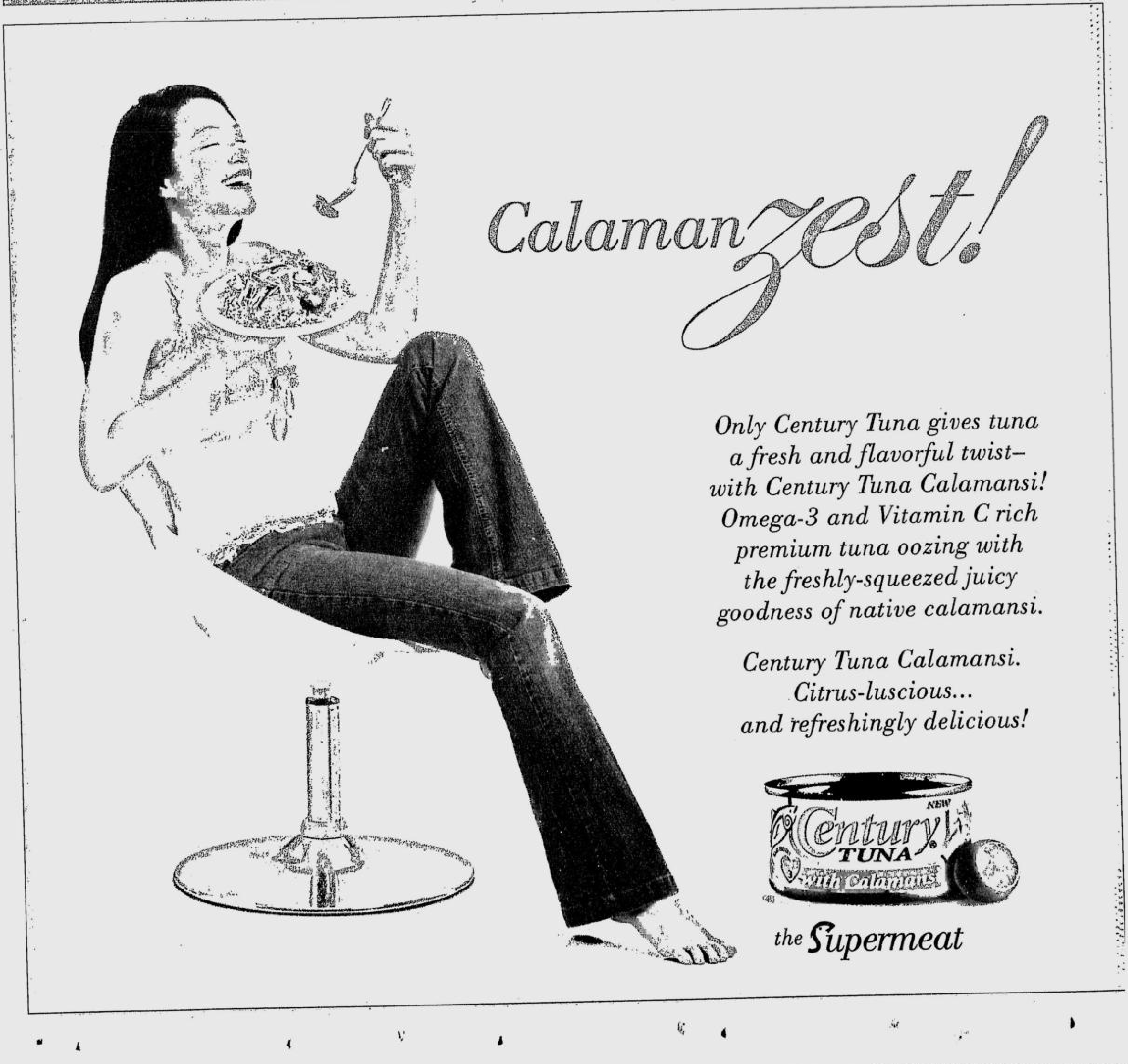
Small pleasures

Utmost living in limited spaces /I2

A secret wee garden of delights /I4

Big things, small dwellings /I7

Handy home and appliance tips /I8



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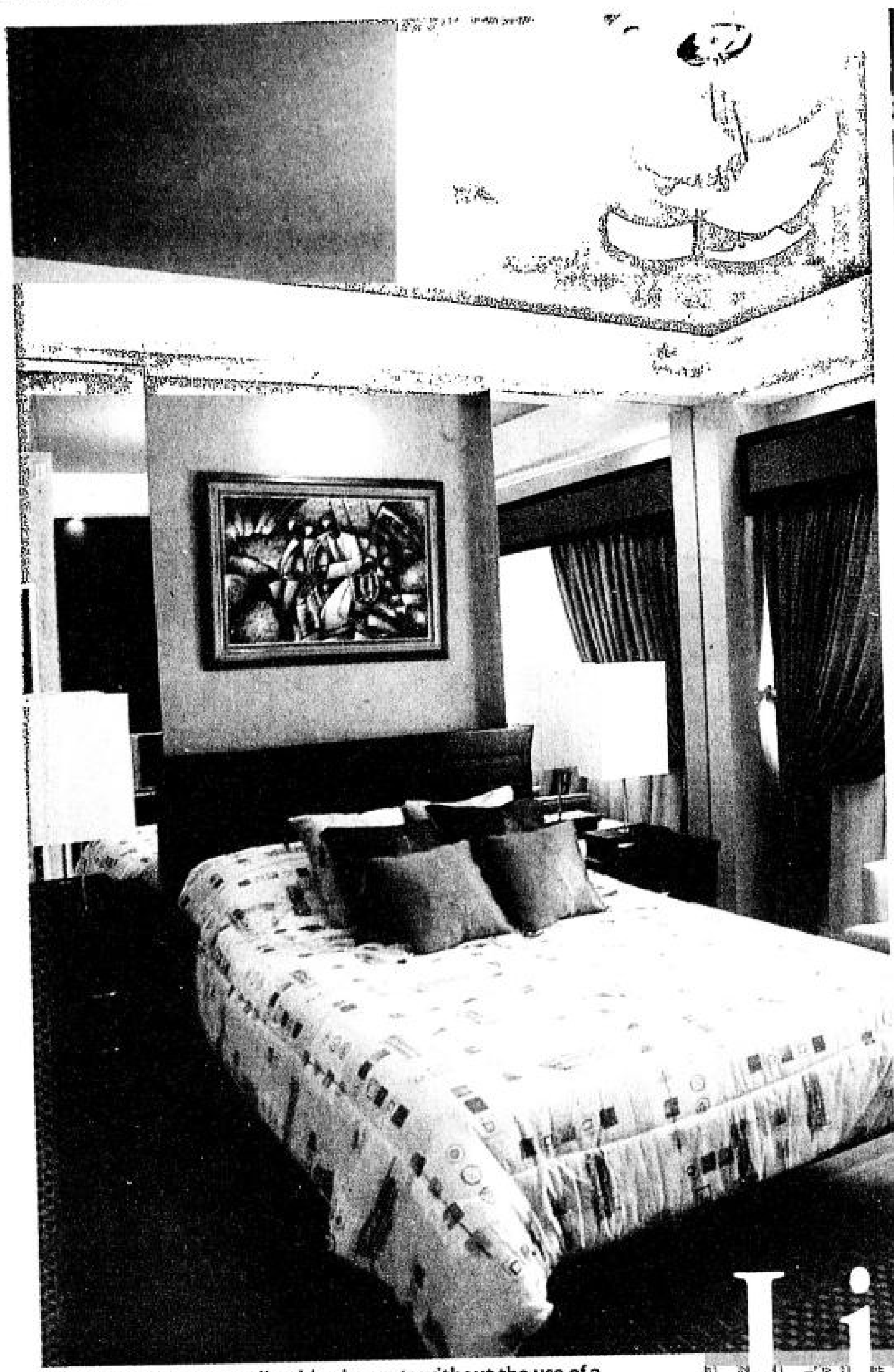
Century Tuna Calamansi. Citrus-luscious... and refreshingly delicious!

the Supermeat

TIGHTNESS OF SPACE IS NO HINDRANCE TO CREATIVE DWELLING



MIRRORS become predictable elements without the use of a recessed wall and artwork.

STAINED wenge extends to the made-to-measure dining table.

IN LIEU of painted walls, the unit's interior designers cover them with washable wallpaper.

A MIRROR instantly imparts a small area with an illusion of space.

Limited space, utmost living

ENTERTAINMENT center and series of shelves are done in wenge finish to blend with the wall treatment.

DROP ceiling frames the living room and hides mood lighting fixtures.

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

WHEN JOSE AND JOSEFINA "Josie" Lanuza bought a one-bedroom condo unit at the Shang Grand Tower (tel. 6348111 or 6348080) in Makati last year, their main concern was maximizing the 80-sq m unit that would serve as their refuge upon their return to Manila from San Francisco.

The consideration wasn't there when the couple decorated their West Coast home so they did away with the services of an interior designer. But in Manila, Josie made sure everything would be different from her "French-inspired" San Francisco home.

To achieve her vision of a retirement home with "contemporary" interiors, she hired the services of interior designers Tam Gutierrez and Rachel Laceda.

"Since my husband and I still live in the US," says Josie, "it would have been impossible for us to work on the unit and monitor its progress."

After making a list of her requirements, Josie left everything to Gutierrez and Laceda, who happen to be twin sisters. They kept the Lanuzas updated every step of the way via e-mail and long-distance calls. It took the duo a little over a month to finish the project.

"Mrs. Lanuza's major requirements were a nice, homey and fuss-free unit," said Gutierrez. "Other than that, she left everything to us. When she saw the finished product, she didn't have anything changed."

On top of putting the finishing touches on an empty shell of a unit, the sisters also designed the furniture pieces and had them made by the furniture factory that has been owned by their family even before they became designers.

In fact, almost every furniture piece in the house was made to measure and can be knocked down for easier handling. The compact pieces were designed, said Gutierrez, with a condo unit's limited space in mind.

One of their main concerns, of course, was how to maximize space. Apart from placing mirrors in strategic areas of the house such as the dining area and lone bedroom, they limited the color palette to earth tones for a warm yet streamlined look.

Mahogany and wenge-stained furniture pieces echo the color of valances, shelves, showcases and a wall-mounted entertainment center. To put Asian flavor to the contemporary setting, the sisters incorporated bamboo accents in a number of chairs. A series of valances that framed the bedroom window mimics the printed curtains below.

Powder room

Since decades of living in California have taught the couple to do without a maid (at least for now), they had the maid's quarters adjacent to the kitchen converted into a powder room.

BAMBOO accents on chairs infuses the unit's contemporary look with an Asian flavor.

For this purpose, the sisters knocked down a portion of the living room wall to make way for a space-saving sliding door, which, in turn, leads to the new powder room. The sisters designed a wenge-finished dresser to go with the area, but decided to retain the mini-bathroom that came with it.

They also retained the unit's wooden floors, but refurbished walls with textured and washable wallpaper. Such an enhancement, Gutierrez admitted, was a bit pricey. But it dramatically helped make the place look interesting and less predictable.

"I could have simply used more mirrors to make the unit appear more spacious than it really is," Gutierrez added. "But that would have made the place, especially the bedroom, look predictable."

For example, the sisters kept a pair of mirrored panels confined to both sides of the bedroom wall. Not only is the middle section of the wall recessed and covered with wallpaper, it also comes with a series of lights hidden beneath the headboard to illuminate an impressionist oil painting by an unknown artist.

In fact, almost all the generic-looking art pieces were done by virtual unknowns. One telltale sign that the unit has yet to be lived in is the absence of accent pieces on a number of shelves and showcases.

Lights also play an important role in the overall scheme of things. Both living room and bedroom have dropped ceilings equipped with mood lighting systems.

Despite their attempts to tweak established design norms, the sisters didn't stray far from the hotel look. A number of furniture and accent pieces found in the bedroom, for example, come in pairs: armchairs, side tables with pullout trays, and lamp shades.

Indeed, the look was what their clients ordered: modern; streamlined and low-maintenance. This early, Josie and her husband are already looking forward to a peaceful and worry-free retirement in Manila years from now.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

GRACEFUL sculptural pieces liven up this corner of the house.

WELL-PLACED art frames provide pleasant visual stimulation, enliven bare walls and transform the room into a vision of a stylish home.

UTILIZING natural light as well as lighter paint is a simple yet effective technique to provide character and space in the limited area of the condo home.

Opening up a cramped condo unit

CONDOMINIUM LIVING HAS gained popularity over the years. But the limited floor area poses a tough challenge for owners who want to turn their own units into homes that display their personal touch.

In some condominium, columns and beams make the possibilities even more limited. But the new A. Venue Residential and Hotel Suites (tels. 7572615/16 or visit www.antel.com.ph) offers more options for decorating with its beam-less and column-free design.

A. Venue gives the following tips for decorating limited spaces:

- **Visually enlarge the room with light paint.** Employ visual tricks to make small space seem larger. Lighter paint increases the light values of a room making it appear bigger. Celadon or chamois color base, among others are recommended.
- **Choose décor for focus.** Pick interesting décor pieces and unique furniture. A carved arm chair, an oddly shaped vase, a lamp stand made from driftwood or a steel objet d'art are some possibilities. Check out flea markets, antique shops and ethnic product stores for that unique centerpiece décor.
- **Balance your décor.** Create an asymmetrical balance between large and small items in a room. Distribute décor pieces evenly so that no corner appears too crowded or heavy.
- **Use area rugs to help expand floor area.** Area rugs can help break the pattern and trick the eye into thinking a space is bigger than it really is. Lighter shades and simpler patterns are best. Rugs can also define the different areas of a room.
- **Maximize walls.** Hang artworks or picture frames since they draw the eye and provide visual stimulation.

Balance wall accents. Complement a large painting with a set of small ones and vividly colored art pieces with monochromatic photos for an interesting contrast.

- **Divert attention with vertical accents.** Vertical pieces like tall vases, bamboo or cogon stick pieces, floor lamps or indoor plants can serve as focal points. These are best placed beside or behind a sofa set, or at corners to liven up dead spaces.
- **Allow natural light to liven up the home.** Use layered curtains to create different effects at various times of day. More light gives more life to any room.

The A. Venue Residences offers 356 one-bedroom, two-bedroom and three-bedroom residential suites with beam-less and column-free design. The project is expected to be completed third quarter of 2007, including a new tower with 28 floors that will house the residential component of the complex.

ACCENT art pieces create focus for the eye, making the room feel larger and adding character, similar to the effect provided by the decorative ladder (above).

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Natural green tea leaves
Not just powder.
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C2 contains pure, natural
green tea leaves perfectly brewed
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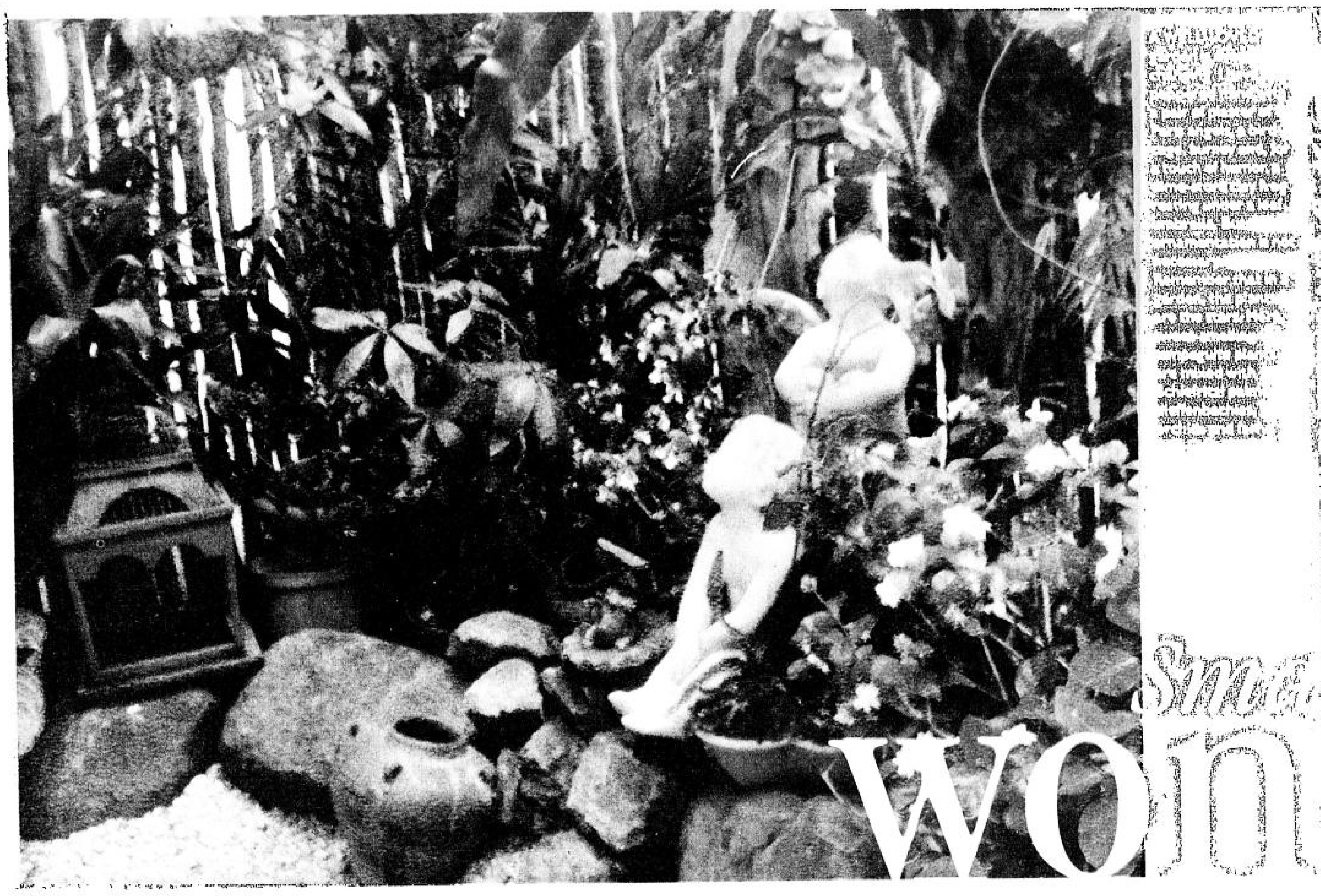
A POCKET GARDEN IS INTIMATE, FUN AND LOW-MAINTENANCE



Small wonde

AFTERNOON sunlight filters
For a dash of verticality, we pu

By Chelo Banal-Formoso

IT DIDN'T OCCUR TO ME THAT our meals could be made more pleasant just by changing the view from our dining room window until I happened to look up from reading the INQUIRER while having breakfast one morning.

Our old house has capiz windows that slide to the sides and give a full view of the outside. And what I saw that morning was an ugly backyard tableau. Trash bins filled to overflowing (when the garbage trucks come around to collect, I haven't the faintest idea). Clotheslines from which horrid-looking rags were hanging. Dirty laundry being sorted before being piled into washer. A concrete backwall topped helter skelter by barbed wiring to discourage the criminal elements. A storage area for our surplus junk. Next to it, the maids' bathroom with its door ajar (these girls seem to have no concept of a closed door). Not a pretty sight, I tell you, not a pretty sight.

Household zen

Now, if you're thinking, "And this is the home of a lifestyle editor?" I can't blame you. If you want to know the truth, I can't cook either. There was a time when I wished I could have a glossy-mag type of home, spotless and clutter-free, but I got over the Martha Stewart complex when I realized my kids were being traumatized by my yelling every time I found Bazooka gum stuck to the carpet. I've since become a huge fan of household zen. Why stress myself out if the roof is not falling? Why bother with curtains if the neighbors are not nosy? Why fret over the ironing if there are still clothes in the closet? That kind of zen.

But every now and then I do go through a "nesting" period (as opposed to my usual "floundering" period) and remember that I have a filial duty to keep a pleasant home for my mom, my husband and my kids. That's when I look around the house and get the urge to makeover an area. One year it was the living room. Another time, it was the den. That morning that I looked out the window and saw a view more dismal than the page one news on the President, my nesting mode switched on.

My family needed something to block out all the ugly props of daily living that have appropriated our backyard and I knew the solution was simple: a garden. A pocket of green that would allow us to enjoy the space outside as much as we do the inside of our home. But how to create one in a backyard that has been poured over with concrete? Lorenz Inos, a low-key gardener who runs his own landscaping business in Nueva Ecija, had the answer.

Half-a-day job

Some people will warn you that a pocket garden doesn't happen overnight but that's because they haven't met the Inos brothers. Ours took only half a day to set up. I would have said forget it had Lorenz suggested drilling and digging out the concrete flooring. I would have thrown the idea out the window had he said it would take 3-5 days. But he showed up at my door one day to look at the space, said the area was getting too much sun and promised to return another day. In a few weeks, he was back with his truck, crew and supplies.

Only half the backyard was going to be turned into a garden. We still needed the other half for doing the laundry. So Lorenz and his crew put up weathered wood slats to skirt the garden area.

To filter the sunlight into soft shade, Lorenz used a plastic netting material overhead. The dappled effect was beautiful.

Lorenz knew that in a small garden, just as in a small house, the main concern was to maximize the available space. So he went for layering. He placed the large plants in the rear, the smaller ones in front. One huge plant and some shrub could have filled our 9 x 8-ft enclosure but he chose instead a palette of tropical plants for a fascinating combination of leaf shapes—curly polypodium ferns, dieffenbachias, MacArthur palms, bromeliads, Schiefritzi palms. For the three walls, Lorenz used Buhok ni Ester, Manaog Ka Irog and mountain ferns. To cover the concrete flooring, Lorenz scattered white pebbles. These helped make the small space look larger.

If you have the space and the time, you can, of course, have a theme for your garden—Italian, Japanese, English cottage. But since mine is so small, it's just a garden, period. Low maintenance, nothing formal, nothing fancy.

BEFORE AND AFTER
The dining room window used to look out onto this backyard (inset), which served as catch-all area for the extras of daily living such as laundry, trash, rags, ladders, plumbing materials, all kinds of junk. The same area is today a pocket of green (right) where all kinds of things are happily growing, albeit in pots. It is a low-maintenance garden, nothing formal, nothing fancy.

If you have a green thumb a
time, by all means, create a p
your own (*see sidebar*). If n
take the easier route like I did
make your pocket garden f
there, it's all yours to jazz up.

Angels and frog

Mine looks so different now
Lorenz entrusted to me. It's
my garden so I have done
with it as I pleased. I've added
stuff from my own wish list.
Angel statuaries. The scent of
sampaguita. Found objects. A
clay frog taking shelter under
a clay leaf for an unexpected
humorous touch. A string of
lights for evening ambiance

To the white pebbles that
cover the concrete flooring, I
have added glass beads that
sparkle in the sun and glisten
in the rain.

I am a horticultural dummy
so I can't identify the plants
that we've bought to replace
the ones that have died (a sad
a garden). I just think that we
the right plants because our
heartbreakingly beautiful, esp
the light dances and dazzles on
our angels' eyes.

I'm looking forward to cole

Free lectures on plants, flowers

EDSA GARDEN HOUSE AT EDSA corner Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, is hosting free livelihood-oriented lectures on plants, flowers and food technologies on weekends. Call 9293189, 9270510 or 7119633/36.

Seminars and speakers for May are:

May 4, 5-8 p.m.—Soap-making (powder, herbal, dish washing), Elma Ocrisma

May 5, 5-8 p.m.—Fundamentals of Horticulture 01, Ray Ong

May 6, 9-11 a.m.—Organic Agriculture, Agerico Valdez; Quality Food, Health, Lifestyle & Clean Environment, Eva Rose Pua; Making Food a Treat not a Threat

2-5 p.m., Basic Flower Arrangement, Pearl Banaag

May 7, 2-5 p.m.—Wedding Flowers, Banaag

May 8, 5-8 p.m.—Novelty Items, Ocrisma

Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis. Kits will be available at P35 each for 25 registrants.

May 9, 5-8 p.m.—Perfume Making (cream, roll-on, cologne spray, etc.), Ocrisma

May 11, 5-8 p.m.—Balloon Arrangement, Raul Querubin

May 12, 5-8 p.m.—Fundamentals of Horticulture 02, Ong

May 13, 9-11 a.m.—Production of Organic Fertilizer and Natural Input, Renato Bayaca

2-5 p.m.—Flower Arrangement for Special Occasions, Banaag

May 14, 2-5 p.m.—Advanced Flower Arrangement, Nonito Gallo

May 15, 5-8 p.m.—Fruits and Vegetables Preservation, Ocrisma

May 17, 5-8 p.m.—Meat Processing 1 (skinless *longganisa*, *tocino*, hamburger patties and quick-cured ham), Ocrisma

May 18, 5-8 p.m.—Meat Processing 2 (*embotido*, corned beef, meat nuggets and *siomai*), Ocrisma

May 19, 5-8 p.m.—Fundamentals of Horticulture 3, Ong

May 20, 9-11 a.m.—Bio Intensive Vegetable Production, Ed Samaniego

2-5 p.m.—Fish Processing, Ocrisma

May 21, 2-5 p.m.—Candy Making (chocolate molding, no-cook pastilles and polvoron con queso), Ocrisma

May 22, 5-8 p.m.—Native Delicacies (*puto*, *puto pao*, *kutsinta* and *pichi-pichi*), Ocrisma

May 23, 5-8 p.m.—Jams and Jellies (pineapple jam, mango jam and homemade fruit cocktail), Ocrisma

May 26, 5-8 p.m.—Fundamentals of Horticulture 4, Ong

May 27, 9-11 a.m.—Organic Certification and Organic Agriculture, Valdez; Public Policy, Dr. Raffy Barrozo

2-5 p.m.—The Art of Gift Wrapping, Premy Eugenio

May 28, 2-5 p.m.—Candle Making, Ocrisma

May 31, 5-8 p.m.—Stuffed Toy Making, Ocrisma

Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis. Kits are available at P100 each for 25 participants, who should bring their own pairs of scissors.

PLANTS cultured on rocks are put in bonsai pots.

M

By Serapion S.
Contributo

ROCK-CLASPIN
plants, particul
are indeed inte

Some of the p
rocks are the fo
rieties of *balete*
cereifera), Gine
Angat bush, or
bantigue (*Men*
chaang *suba*
(*Triphasia trifo*
and herbs or gr
tillandsias and n

As to rocks,
coral stones th
rugged in appe
stones, so the ro
or penetrate. U
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moss.

The best time
season when th
The plant, say a
ed, at least a fou

Loosen the
roots. Position
they are evenly
manner.

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in through the slats of the bamboo and mangrove poles skirting the garden.
ıt in tall palms and hanging plants.

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t, don't fret and
Get someone to
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from the garden

ıct of life even in
nust have chosen
garden looks so
cially when the
ed the leaves and

ting a variety of

pots and adding a water feature some other time. Gardeners will tell you that there's no need to spend a fortune on ornamentation and they're right. Remember that in a garden the plants are the stars. The interplay of sun and shadows that is filtered through the foliage is a delightful enough show.

We do have a lot of hanging plants. No need to worry about hitting them with our heads because no one goes into the garden except to water. And this is one more reason why I so love this garden. We have used it to keep my son Gabriel engaged when otherwise he would have retreated into the invisible bubble that is both a blessing and a curse to an autistic boy like him. His former tutor, Edward Guinto, spent many an afternoon teaching him how to water the garden. It is obvious that this green space brings a feeling of well-being to my son, and I like to think he is returning the favor to the plants.

MY HEROES, Lorenz and Jon-Jon Inos

All I had wanted in the beginning was a pocket of green to give us something nice to gaze upon while dining. What I now have is a blessing.

E-mail the author at cbformoso@inquirer.com.ph or @mydsl

ini trees on rocks

Metilla

G OR ROCK-GROWN
rly those cultured as bonsai,
sting.
lants that can be cultured on
us species (more than 20 va-
), candle trees (*Parmentiera*
ina hystrix, *Serissa foetida*,
tiles (*Muntingia calabura*),
phis acidula),
lemoncito
a), *bantolinao*
sses like ferns,
undo grass.
the best are volcanic and
are water-absorbent and
rance, unlike smooth river
ots of plants can easily cling
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are already covered with

to plant is during the rainy
rocks do not easily dry up.
balete, should be fully root-
or more long.
oil without damaging the
ne roots in such a way that
distributed and in a clasping

Apply clay soil all over the roots to make them stick. Cover all roots and rocks with moist sphagnum moss. To make sure the moss stays in place for at least six months or more, tie it tightly to the rock with a string or straw.

Put your rock in a bonsai pot with potting medium at the bottom. Tie the rock to the pot to keep it steady so it does not fall. Generously water immediately and place in a shady location.

GREEN TIPS

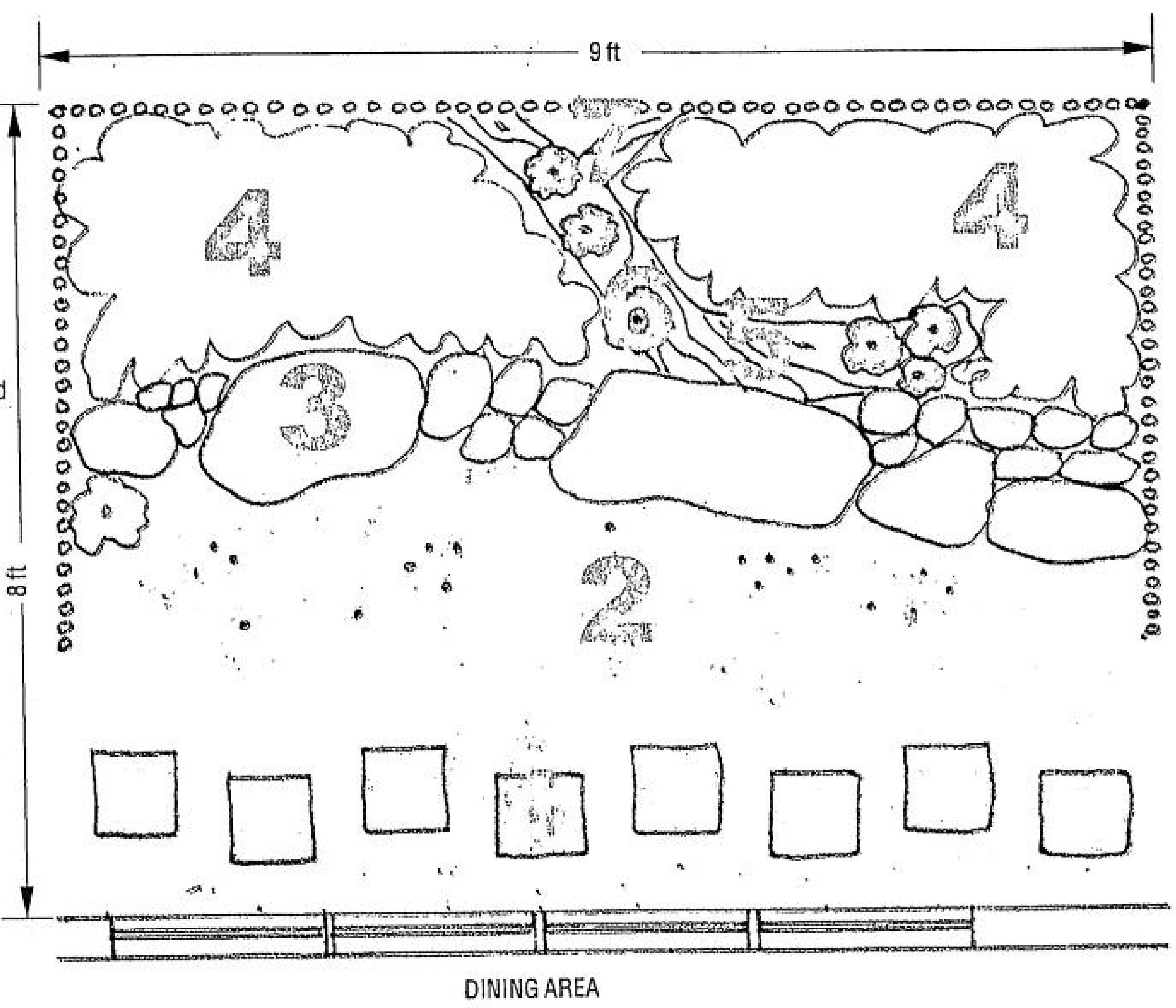
You should water your new specimen twice or more daily. When new growths appear, usually after three or more months, transfer the plant to a partially sunny place. After another month or so, move the plant to where it will get full sunlight. Leave the string and moss in the plant to rot.

To make the *balete* or other trees artistic, train them in bonsai style. Prune unwanted branches and use wire to achieve the desired shape and look of an ancient miniaturized tree.

If you want to learn more about growing plants on rocks, check out schedules of seminar-workshops on bonsai culture and other plant arts.

Call this writer at 9394593 or 0917-8321352.

KEY
1 Steps
2 Pebbles
3 Boulders
4 Mixed Planting
5 Drift wood
6 Bromeliads
7 Weathered wood



ACCIDENTAL gardeners will like this garden with its low-maintenance plants in pots. The focal point is a big driftwood on which are mounted orchids, ferns and bromeliads. Low plants are placed in the foreground, bordered by boulders. White pebbles are used as ground covering.

Easy-does-it instant pocket garden

A GARDEN IS A PERSONAL place. There is no right or wrong way to style it.

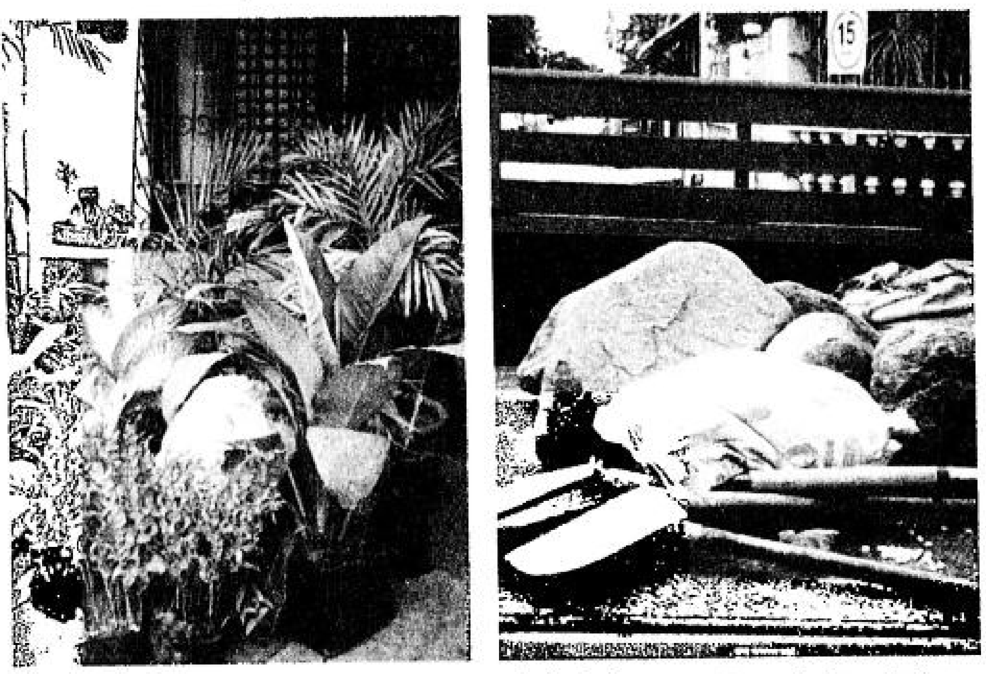
Most landscape gardeners will tell you there are two basic questions you need to answer when you're thinking of creating a pocket garden. One is, "What have I got?" This refers to the size of the space that you want to convert into a garden, where the sun falls, how much light it gets, etc.

STEP BY STEP

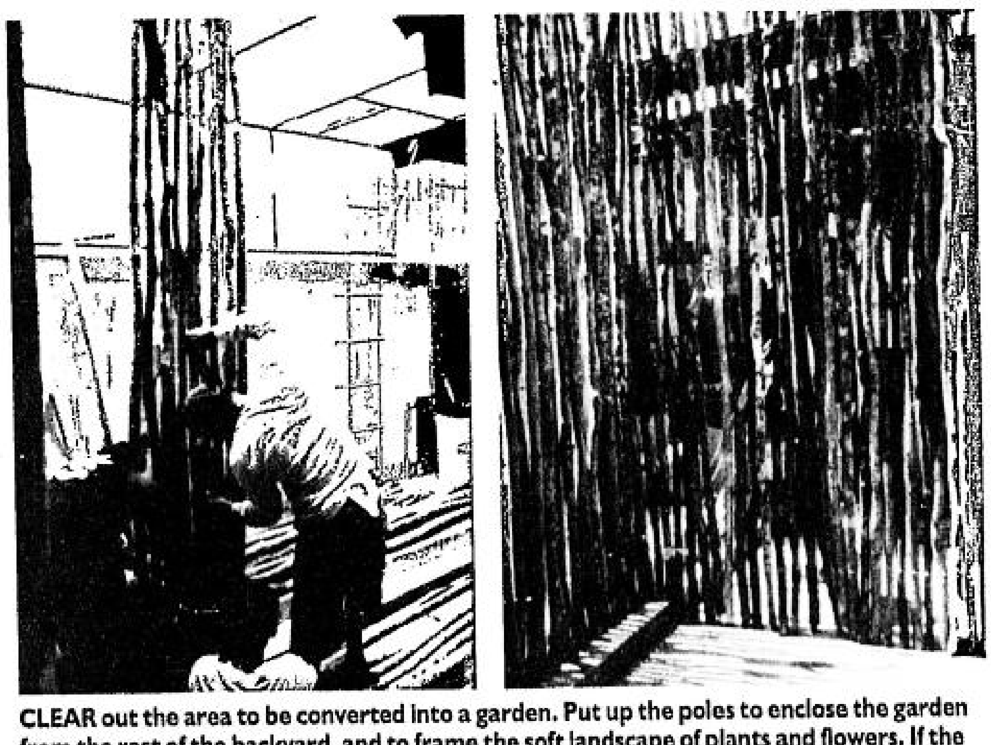
The other question is, "What do I want?" This refers to how you want to use the space, the kind of garden you want to create. Do you want a Japanese garden with rocks and bonsais? A floral garden perhaps? Or a free-form garden where things grow naturally?

Here's a how-to guide to get you started on your own pocket garden.

SOURCES: LANDSCAPING BY LORENZ INOS, M GALLEGO COMPOUND, MAHARLIKA HIGHWAY, CABANATUAN CITY (0918-5103412 OR 0919-2001832)
POTS AND PLANTS ARE AVAILABLE AT METT'S PLANT ARTS IN MANILA SEEDLING BANK, QUEZON BLVD. COR. EDSA, QC (4352479)
PEBBLES, BOULDERS AND PATH PADS ARE AVAILABLE AT D'FLORA'S GARDEN ON KATIPUNAN ROAD, WHITE PLAINS, QC (9121446)
"SMALL SPACE GARDENS" BY DAVID STEVENS IS AVAILABLE AT NATIONAL BOOK STORE AND POWERBOOKS



WHAT YOU NEED: Plants, of course. It's your choice—do you want to go for long-lasting plants or for color? Because your goal is an instant garden, your plants would have to be potted. Take care that the plant size is proportional to the container. You'll also need boulders, weathered wood, bamboo poles for walling, pebbles for ground covering, path pads, ladder, etc.



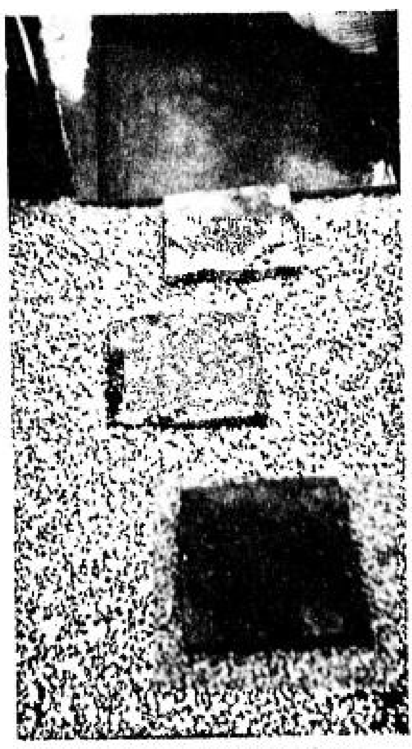
CLEAR out the area to be converted into a garden. Put up the poles to enclose the garden from the rest of the backyard, and to frame the soft landscape of plants and flowers. If the area gets too much sun, install a heavy-duty plastic mesh overhead to filter the sun's rays.

NUEVA ECIJA
TROPICAL GARDENS

INSTALL one striking feature, and sometimes that's all a small garden can hold. Here the focal point is a big piece of weathered wood that cradles the colorful elements of bromeliads and orchids.

MOUNTAIN ferns and hanging plants like Buhok ni Ester and Manaog Ka Irog adorn the walls. Flowering plants provide color and scent. Palms and bromeliads and dieffenbachias are chosen for colors, texture and contrasting shapes—rounded leaves and narrow blades. Three or four good plants make a good grouping.

BOULDERS add a feeling of stability and permanence as well as interesting design. Smooth pebbles cover the otherwise ugly concrete flooring. White pebbles have the ability to reflect light and are good for small gardens.



INEXPENSIVE slabs make do as step pads. Ara-al stones or adobe pads may be used. Besides smooth pebbles, chips, bark and gravel may be used as ground cover.

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TWO NEW CONDOMINIUMS FEATURE BETTER AIR CIRCULATION AND GREAT VIEWS

ENTERTAINMENT systems are sleek and take up little or no space. Samsung 20" LCD TV (P54,900); Oregon Scientific Music Element (P20,000); Carrier Room Aircon 1hp (P16,000)

RELAXING work space. Work would be less stressful with gadgets such as these and with an inviting view of the bedroom. Apple Imac and HP All-in-One Printer (prices available upon request)

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

A tale of two spaces

INTIMATE SPACES, PARTICULARLY condominiums by Community Innovation (tel. 8880000), now enjoy all the coveted premiums in a luxury unit—high ceilings, air circulation, privacy and a great view.

It used to be that condo dwellers, in exchange for the tight security of a condominium development, were limited to one-level, low-ceiling, box-type units that allowed for only very little or no air circulation. These are your traditional "flats" and are often associated with condo dwelling.

Traditional studio flat units are even more oppressive. One hears of studio units that have no access to fresh air; some even don't have windows. "Air circulation" is limited to exhaust fans.

Meanwhile, luxury of high ceilings and the homelike atmosphere of an upstairs and a downstairs were exclusive to penthouse units, which were prohibitively expensive.

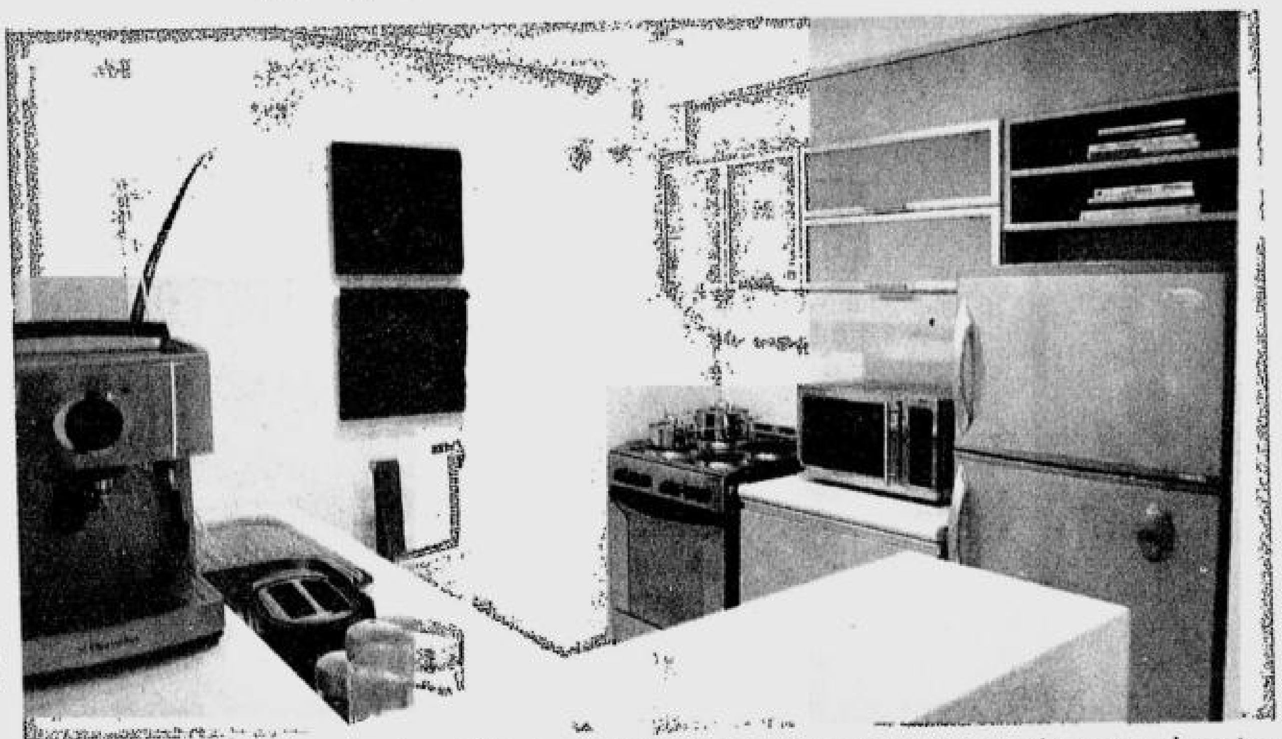
Access to air

Community Innovations, an Ayala Land company, felt that urban dwellers needed greater access to three rare commodities: a view, in-house privacy and access to freshly circulating air.

"We want to make the prestige and the aero-friendly features of penthouse units to visit upon intimate spaces," Bobby Dy, president of Community Innovations, said.

He cited the Tallview units in The Columns Legazpi Village (TCLV).

The total square area of 57 square meters may seem "small and cramped," but the way the units are laid out in the Tallview units allow for a total separation of the public (living room, kitchen) and private space (personal study, bathroom and sleeping quarters) by "cutting" the space in two, with the private quarters in the second level of the unit.


A TALLVIEW kitchen is created to be as efficient as possible without taking up too much space via a surround counter and with appliances built-in. Electrolux Pop-up Bread Toaster, ETS100 (P950); Electrolux Espresso Maker, EES200 (P5,990); Elba Stainless Electric range (P34,995); GE 10-cu ft ref (P28,000); GE Microwave (P13,995)

Furniture are slim and streamlined and low-lying in order to create a contiguous line from the kitchen to the dining room and the living room.

The furniture and the office equipment in the bedroom are white and sleek, so they can meld seamlessly into the color of the wall.

The selection of white is deliberate in order to allow for light to bounce off the walls and the mirrors that have been very generously used in the living room and the bedroom.

All TCLV units, regardless of configuration, have the mandatory two windows. "One window is simply not enough to allow the air to circulate," said Dy.

The circulation bounces off to the windows in the toilets and kitchens, which assures all units of uninterrupted fresh air.

The Tallview units also have an outer area which can be repurposed as a laundry area or a mini garden, or both.

Room with a view

Providing dwellers with a good view is Two Serendra, the Community Innovations project in the heart of Fort Bonifacio.

Because of the elliptical shape of Two Serendra, no two views are the same.

"The curvilinear shape of the development was an engineering and an architectural feat," Dy said.

"No two tiles, roofing material are the same. Everything had to be customized. The consumer is king here because no two views are the same."

Two Serendra assigns a balcony to all units, including the studio flats. This was designed to give unhampered appreciation and enjoyment of the 60-percent greens in the Two Serendra development.

The balcony is deep enough to allow for low-lying furniture like a coffee table and two sets to be accommodated. The space may even allow for a reading nook or even private gardening.

"We want all units to be a continuation of the outdoors, the seven water bodies, the fruit groves and the fortress of trees that protect Two Serendra from the rest of the city," Dy said.

Even higher units get to enjoy the outdoor and the greens because fully grown 40-foot trees are being planted.

All areas in the flat of Two Serendra have an unobstructed view of the outdoors with very generous windows—up to as much as four for such an intimate space of 48-51 square meters.

The selection of sofas in the living room, designed to be the center in this particular unit, and other traditionally chunky furniture are important.

Low-lying wrap-around furniture were used in bright-colored fabrics to provide a soft touch and healthy blush to the living room.

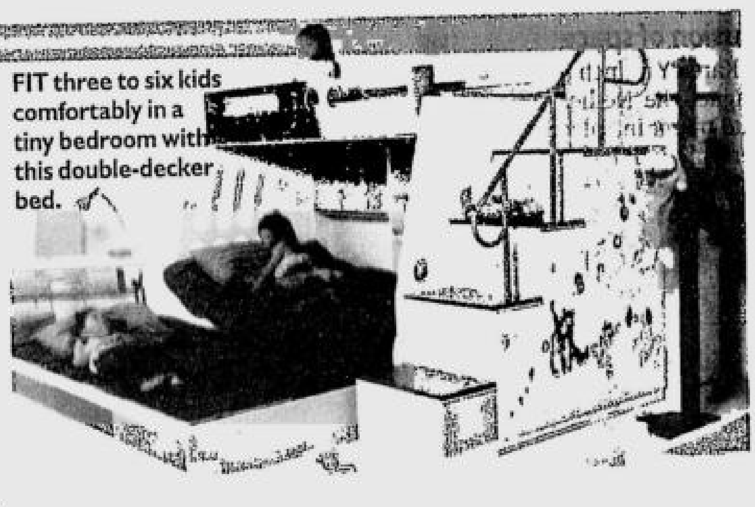
The Tallviews of TCLV is not to be outdone—its piece de resistance is the 5.2-meter ceiling in the living room area punctuated by a floor-to-ceiling display window from where you may enjoy a view of the many parks in Legaspi Village.

Window treatments and "tall" artwork may be used in order to create a floor-to-ceiling line of sight.

ALL SPACE-SAVING APPLIANCES FROM ABENSON. FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL GLORIETTA 1 (8188453 OR 8195663), ROBINSONS PLACE ERMITA (5367914 OR 4000248), WALTERMART MAKATI (8122882 OR 8121584), SHANGRI-LA MALL (6388017 TO 18) AND MARKET! MARKET! (8866620 OR 8866491)

SELECT furniture that is dual or multifunctional. Sofa beds convert any living area into a bedroom in an instant.

DESIGN kitchens carefully so no precious space is wasted.


FIT three to six kids comfortably in a tiny bedroom with this double-decker bed.

Style in a pocket

FURNISHING anything below 100 square meters of floor area can be a daunting task, but according to interior designer Mari Ruiz Gomez, with planning, imagination and a little know-how, you can make the most out of your limited space—with style.

Start by making an inventory of your existing furniture pieces and assess the value of each item in relation to your new space. Don't let sentiment make you hold on to pieces that you want to get rid of. No chair or table should occupy precious space only because "it was a precious gift" or "it's always been around."

Next, assess your space and determine whether it can benefit from the use of built-in furniture. You may have to elicit the professional advice of an interior designer. He or she will be able to spot the best places to allocate and design built-in furniture.

Kitchens, in particular, have to be designed carefully so no valuable space is wasted. Overhead and wall cabinets or hanging shelves utilize walls that are otherwise a waste of space.

Wardrobe storage should be built-in. If your condo unit is short of built-in closets, the construction of such should be on the top of your priority list. Examine areas below the staircase, wide hallways and alcoves. These can serve as areas to integrate extra storage space or serve as special areas such as an entertainment area and a study area.

After you have made a short list of your existing furniture and figured out the best position for these pieces, you will be able to identify the gaps in your furnishing arrangements.

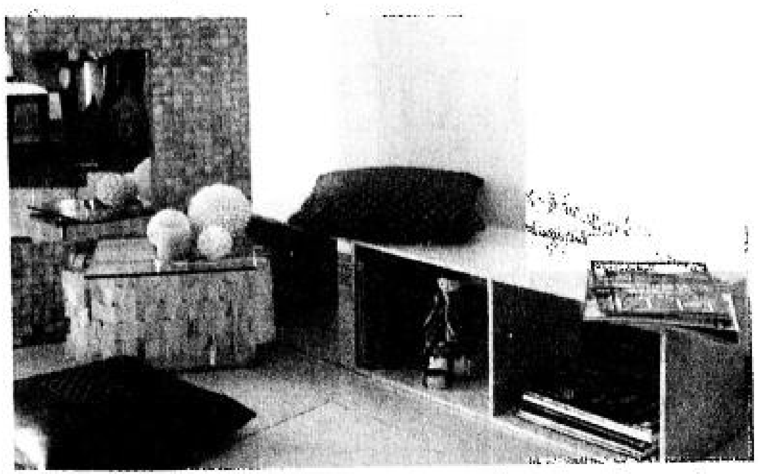
Carefully consider the furniture you will be buying for your new home. It's easy to make the mistake of bringing in furniture that doesn't sit well in a small space. Here are some tips to follow:

ASSIGN minimal colors on fabric and soft furnishings.

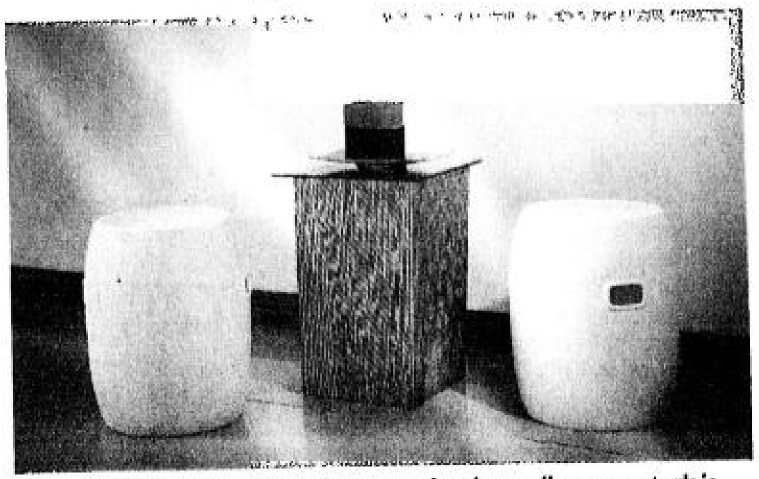
- Make a list of furniture pieces and furnishings you need per area and prioritize.
- Determine the ideal shape of the pieces. This particularly applies to tables: a round table would be perfect for a square room, while a rectangular or oval table would best suit a long narrow area. Round or oval tables are preferable for cramped areas since they eliminate the hazard of sharp corners.
- Get accurate measurements of the new furniture's location. Don't forget to allow for clearances around it, if necessary. For bulky furniture, check out all the areas it will have to pass through, from the service elevator to the main door of the unit. If you're buying a bed frame, choose a "knockdown" type for stress-free delivery.
- Always bring a floor plan of your condo unit complete with dimensions whenever you visit a furniture store so you can refer to it in case you need to deviate from the sizes of furniture you and your designer had initially selected.
- Choose furniture pieces that are light in weight, fine in form, yet big in function. Avoid furniture with massive forms and heavy ornamentation such as intricate carving details on wood. Go for streamlined pieces; dual or multifunctional pieces are even better.
- Avoid buying sofas with wide armrests. Opt for fine-framed lounge sets with bolster pillows instead.
- Try to stick to a single wood finish. If you really want to introduce a second finish, go for something neutral like a whitewash or a distressed black, provided this will complement your overall scheme.
- Choose materials and finishes that are low maintenance.
- Stay away from glass tops if you have toddlers around.
- Assign minimal colors on fabric and soft furnishings. Heavy patterns or loud colors should be seen only on a few selected items such as accent chairs. As a general rule on furnishing small spaces, use light colors on heavy patterned fabrics, while heavy colors should be used on small-printed or plain fabrics.

Finally, use every resource available to satisfy your needs and tastes but don't let your condo become a showplace. After all, the most important criterion for any element of design is still function.

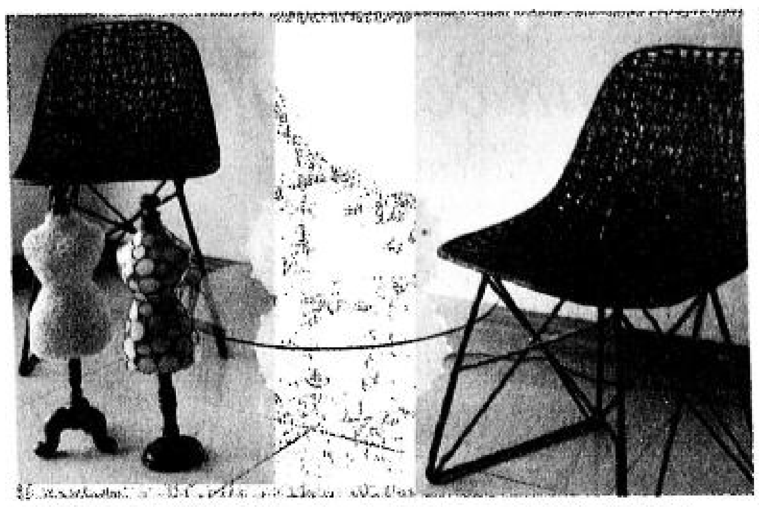
Federal Design Expo, the one-stop home building, furniture and lifestyle center, has knowledgeable interior designers ready to help you with all your design and furnishing needs. Federal Design Expo is located at 2250 Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati City. Call 8936553, 8936589, 8404878.



CAPIZ ILLUSION. A bookshelf in capiz turns into a bench, a capiz chandelier lamp turns into a side table, and with a few other touches such as shell tabletop accessories, comfy pillows in leather, and a large mirror framed in capiz mosaic, you can turn a little corner into a cozy nook.



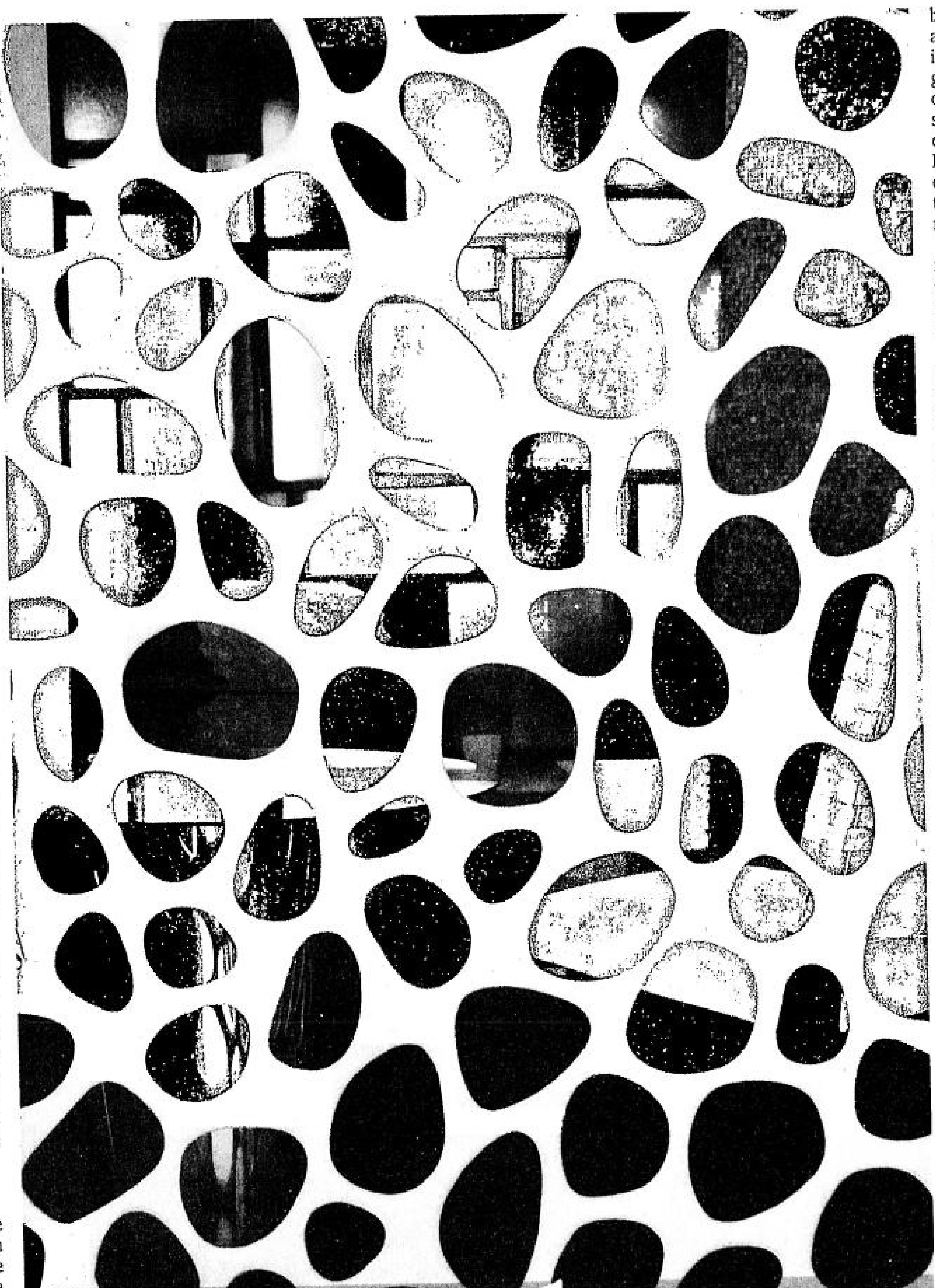
ART OF ZEN. Maximalism is in season, but in small spaces, stark is always a good idea, as long as you throw in sculptural yet functional pieces to give it character. Play around with these fiberglass stools, a stonecast planter that doubles as a tea table, a flicker of candlelight...



LIGHT SOLUTION. With a simple glass top, sea urchin-inspired lamps in fiberglass make a good tea table and a conversation piece. Polycarbon chairs by Kenneth Cobonpue for Marcel Wonders and miniature mannequins in shell and capiz as accent pieces

IMAGINATION IS ALL IT TAKES TO MAXIMIZE A MINI AREA

Living large in small dwellings



SHEER SEPARATION. Define your space with this cheese panel divider in fiber glass or this Japanese screen-inspired *abaca* twine random weave divider. Instead of enclosing areas, dividers seek to provide a delicate degree of separation with a lot of breathing space.

By A.A. Patawaran, *Contributor*
Photos by Fr. Basil Apostol

WE ARE A GENERATION IN a hurry. In the age of condominiums, where everything is within arm's length, we are perfectly fit. But coming from an era where home was on average 300 square meters, with a front lawn, a backyard, or a garden thrown in, it's quite natural to feel a bit claustrophobic living within 30 sq m of a studio.

But homes will inevitably get even smaller, warns Edwin Yabut, in-house architect of Community Innovations whose projects include The Columns and Serendra.

"As prices of land skyrocket, people will find it very difficult to own property closer to the city," he says. "Developers will find it harder to provide spacious units to offer the market without breaking the bank. This is evident in places like Hong Kong, New York, London and Tokyo where living spaces are very tight."

Not to worry, architects and interior designers are rising to the challenge. One of Yabut's pioneering approaches at the Columns Ayala Avenue is to integrate a washing machine into the toilet and bath to free up the living area. "It's a first in such a market," he says.

Flow of energy

But living in miniature is not always about challenges. From the standpoint of feng shui, there is more to small homes than practical advantages. "For one, the energy is concentrated," says Princess Fernandez, proprietor of the Yin & Yang Shop of Harmony at the Mandarin Oriental Manila. "A big house with only three people in it is not good as there is not enough human energy in the home."

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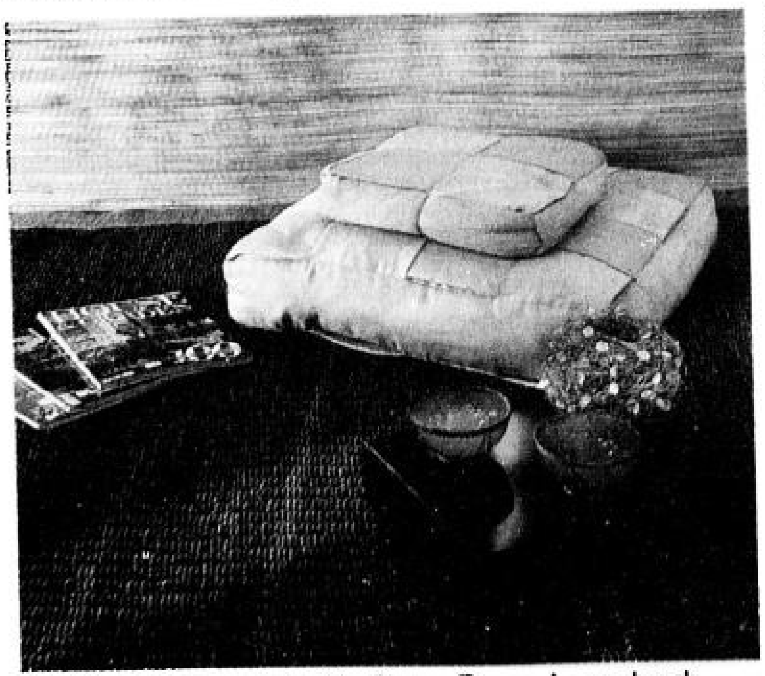
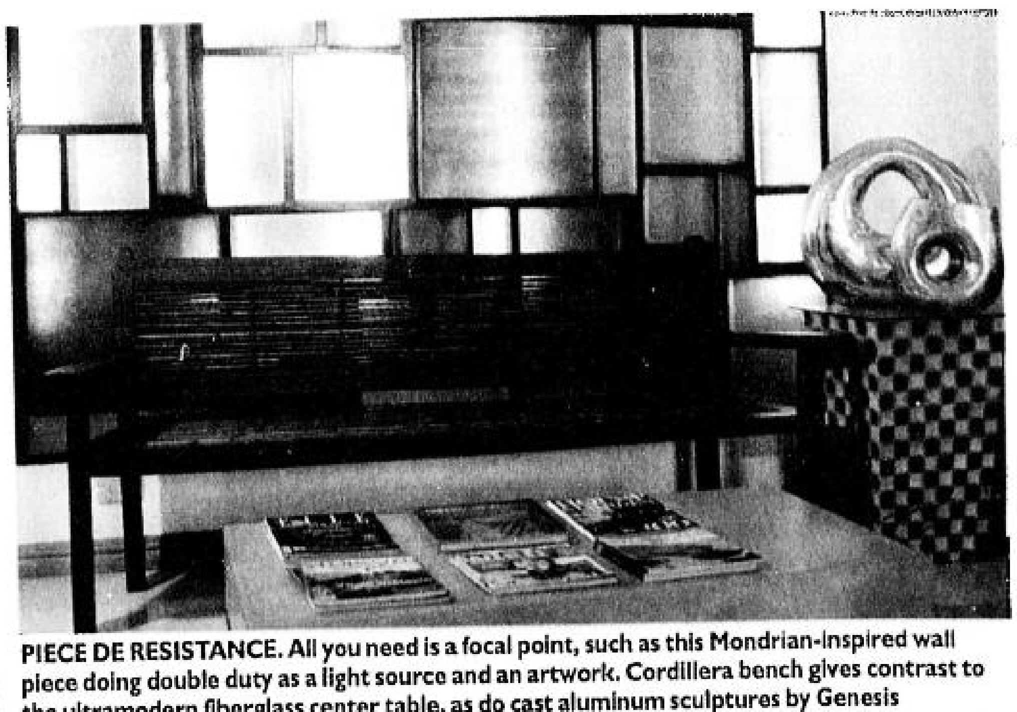
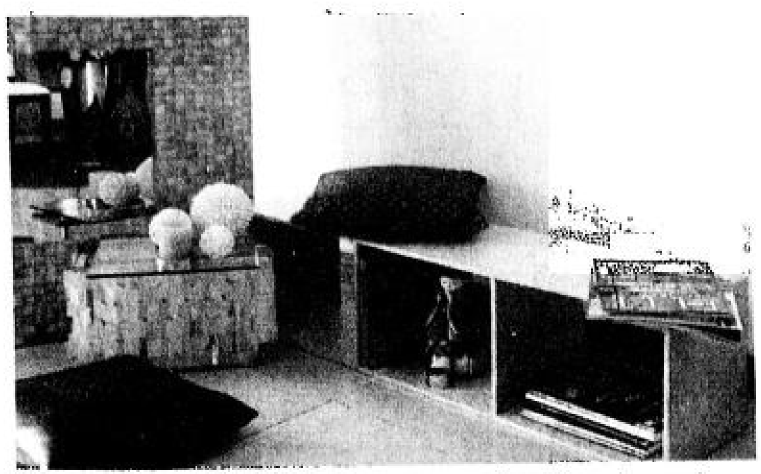


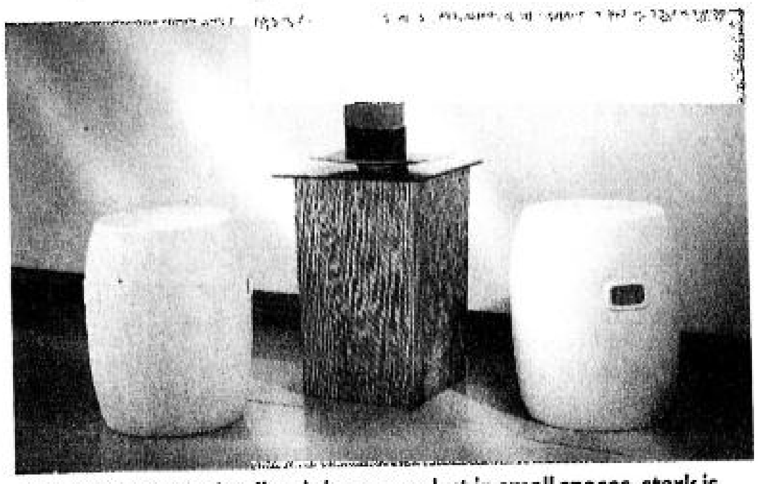
ART OF TEA. Turned on its side, Clayton Tugonon's wave bench forms a backdrop to a tea corner with silk throw pillows, a lacquered tray bearing Chinese glass bowls, on a bacbac area rug.



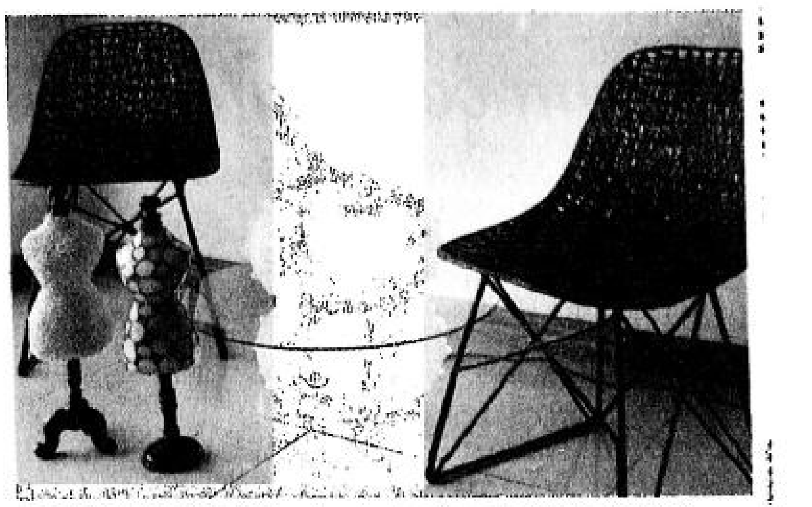
PIECE DE RESISTANCE. All you need is a focal point, such as this Mondrian-inspired wall piece doing double duty as a light source and an artwork. Cordillera bench gives contrast to the ultramodern fiberglass center table, as do cast aluminum sculptures by Genesis Buensoseso to a coco tile planter turned into a chairside table and a storage bin underneath.



CAPIZ ILLUSION. A bookshelf in capiz turns into a bench, a capiz chandelier lamp turns into a side table, and with a few other touches such as shell tabletop accessories, comfy pillows in leather, and a large mirror framed in capiz mosaic, you can turn a little corner into a cozy nook.

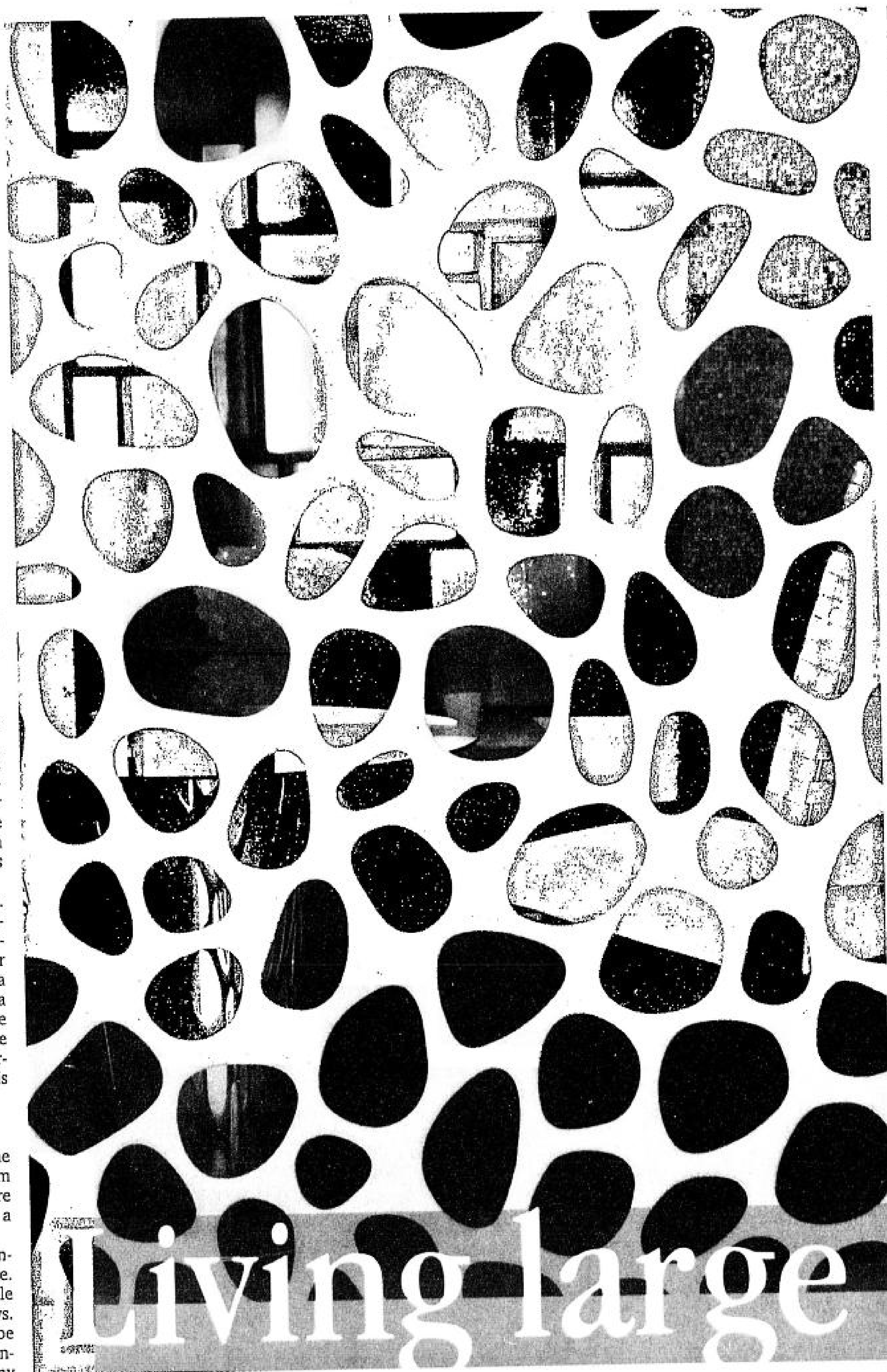


ART OF ZEN. Maximalism is in season, but in small spaces, stark is always a good idea, as long as you throw in sculptural yet functional pieces to give it character. Play around with these fiberglass stools, a stonecast planter that doubles as a tea table, a flicker of candlelight...



LIGHT SOLUTION. With a simple glass top, sea urchin-inspired lamps in fiberglass make a good tea table and a conversation piece. Polycarbon chairs by Kenneth Cobonpue for Marcel Wonders and miniature mannequins in shell and capiz as accent pieces

IMAGINATION IS ALL IT TAKES TO MAXIMIZE A MINI AREA



Living large in small dwellings

SHEER SEPARATION. Define your space with this cheese panel divider in fiber glass or this Japanese screen-inspired *abaca* twine random weave divider. Instead of enclosing areas, dividers seek to provide a delicate degree of separation with a lot of breathing space.

By **A.A. Patawaran**, *Contributor*
Photos by Fr. Basil Apostol

WE ARE A GENERATION IN a hurry. In the age of condominiums, where everything is within arm's length, we are perfectly fit. But coming from an era where home was on average 300 square meters, with a front lawn, a backyard, or a garden thrown in, it's quite natural to feel a bit claustrophobic living within 30 sq m of a studio.

But homes will inevitably get even smaller, warns Edwin Yabut, in-house architect of Community Innovations whose projects include The Columns and Serendra.

"As prices of land skyrocket, people will find it very difficult to own property closer to the city," he says. "Developers will find it harder to provide spacious units to offer the market without breaking the bank. This is evident in places like Hong Kong, New York, London and Tokyo where living spaces are very tight."

Not to worry, architects and interior designers are rising to the challenge. One of Yabut's pioneering approaches at the Columns Ayala Avenue is to integrate a washing machine into the toilet and bath to free up the living area. "It's a first in such a market," he says.

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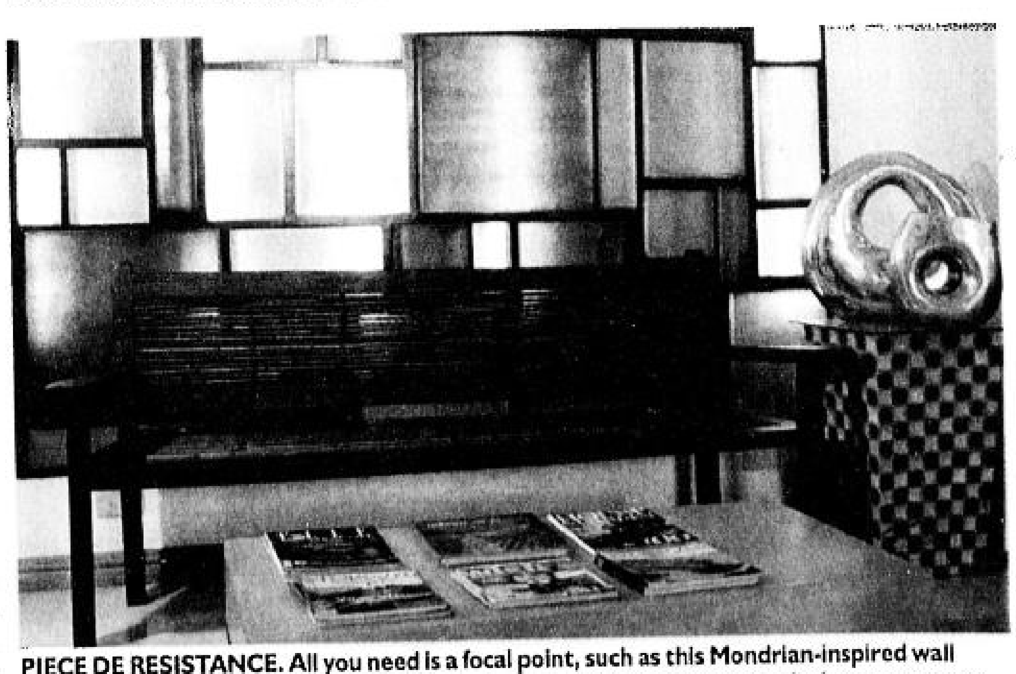

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Cuna celebrates treasured islands

INTERCONTINENTAL Manila, in cooperation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Heritage Conservation Society, presents "Rachified: Installations by Rachy Cuna, Floral Architect of the Philippines" May 4-25 at the hotel's lobby.

The one-of-a-kind show is in celebration of the Filipino Heritage Month. Showcasing the flowers of May, it will provide a refreshing twist to the "native" and feature exquisite creations of dried flowers and foliage all in vases, baskets, planters and other containers that reflect Filipino artistry and craftsmanship.

Cuna, an artist, master florist and stylist, draws from "everyday objects we find on any of our 7,100 islands." His works will bring attention to the abundance of the Philippines' 13 regions.

RACHY Cuna

"Pang-alay," for instance, pays homage to Luzon's endless golden rice fields. Cuna will set up a tableau of sun-kissed *palay*, time-worn baskets, and a golden *bulol*, a statue of the rice god.

"Yaman Dagat," featuring dried materials accentuated with "weathered bits of shell and stone that wash ashore," is a gesture of thanksgiving for the bounty of Mindanao seas.

"Kawayan," on the other hand, is evocative of bamboo latticework that defines traditional homes in the Visayas. Cuna's arrangement will showcase the versatility as well as pliancy of bamboo both as a design component and a practical tool.

"Rachified: Installations by Rachy Cuna, Floral Architect of the Philippines" is part of Cuna's personal mission to promote novel uses and applications of local designs and materials here and abroad.

Handy home tips

By Ronald Paulo
Contributor

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT planned a vacation trip for the long weekend, it is worthwhile to consider having family activities which we either let our household helpers do completely or simply neglect doing due to our workload and family concerns. This not only saves us the expense of traveling but also provides perfect opportunities to bond with the family and keep the home in tip-top shape as well.

Recently, I volunteered to do my share of chores by cleaning my wife's favorite kitchen appliances. This idea not only pasted a huge smile on my wife's face, but took up the interest of my two growing daughters as well.

Household chores may be perfect opportunities for families to bond while keeping the home in tip-top shape

So shed off that macho image and be man enough to take on some household chores. Take it from your neighborhood handyman...

Microwave oven

Care

Avoid unnecessary splatter by covering dishes, using wax paper or paper towels when a looser cover is desired. Use an appropriate cover for the cooking process. If oven does not have a removable glass shelf, a plate or paper towel under food cooked directly on oven floor (as with baked potatoes) keeps it cleaner.

Cleaning

Wipe up spills at once. Wash regularly with mild detergent and water and rinse and wipe dry with paper towel or clean cloth. Make sure to clean around edge of door and door opening to prevent soil buildup.

If spots have dried, boil water in a glass cup for a few minutes; steam should loosen soil. Leave in oven for five minutes. Then wipe dry.

For odors, clean the interior with a solution of 1 tablespoon baking soda to 1 cup warm water, rinse and dry. Or mix 1 part lemon juice to 3 parts water in a large glass cup and boil three to five minutes. Let cool. Then remove water and wipe dry.

Never use abrasive pads or powders on oven. Follow manual directions for care.

Coffeemaker

Clean after each use to remove coffee oils and residue which will cause poor flavor in the next pot of coffee. Wash with warm sudsy water, rinse and dry. On aluminum percolators, remove hard-water deposits with either a soap-filled steel wool pad, or by perking with 1-2 tablespoons cream of tartar dissolved in water; rinse thoroughly.

Do not use alkalis such as baking soda, or chlorine bleach on aluminum. On chrome-plated and stainless steel pots, use commercial coffeepot cleaner to remove stubborn stains. Do not use them on aluminum unless label recommends it.

For electric drip coffee makers, if minerals and scale build up from hard water, periodically run a solution of half white vinegar and half water through it to dissolve scale. The heated solution may have to be run through the unit one or more times if buildup is heavy. Thoroughly rinse all parts of the unit. Run plain cold water through a cycle to remove all traces.

Flat iron

Care

To remove melted plastic and fabrics attached to the iron base, heat at low setting just until material softens, and scrape off with a smooth wooden spatula or half a wooden clothespin. If some remain, make a paste with baking soda and water or silver polish and rub. Wipe off with damp cloth. For a nonstick sole plate, rub gently with nylon mesh pad and suds. Acetone or nail-polish remover may remove melted polyester.

Cleaning

In cleaning clogs from steam iron due to minerals in water, follow use-guide directions for cleaning, or use a commercial iron cleaner. A fine needle in the nozzle hole may open it again. Sometimes "steaming" will remove lint clogging the iron; fill with at least ¼ cup water, set it to "steam," and hold in the air or set flat on wire rack over heat and moisture-resistant surface like a counter protective mat. Let it steam until empty. Using only distilled water in steam irons helps avoid mineral buildup.

Toaster

Remove crumbs regularly, and unplug before doing this. Unplug before using a utensil to remove a stuck piece of toast. In removing food or cleaning, be careful not to damage fine wires, which do the toasting. Better to keep the toaster covered when not in use in order to protect it from insects and rodents.

I suggest you do these tasks regularly to keep appliances in perfect condition. It's important also that we impart this habit to our children at an early age so they become responsible for things at home and learn the value of investments. More importantly, they can look back to these bonding moments as timeless treasures when it's their turn to run the house.

With this list of to-dos, I can heave a sigh of relief for cutting down expensive vacations while looking forward to doing homey stuff with my daughters, pleasing my wife and beginning a new saga of my life as everybody's neighborhood handyman.

The author is an engineer, a certified handyman and a family man.

Send your questions about home repair and maintenance to ronald.paulo@rlc.com.ph or info@handyman.com.ph

For more handy tips, log on to www.handyman.com.ph and check out the handy tip page.

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SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2006

Republic of the Philippines
Governor Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Hospital Equipment (Re-bid) and Supplies (Gen. Appropriations Act 2006 & Continuing Appropriation)

1 The GOVERNOR CELESTINO GALLARES MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, through the General Appropriations Act 2005 and Continuing Appropriations intends to apply the sum of *Php 11,092,500.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *Supply and Delivery of Hospital Equipment (Re-bid) (P1,140,000.00), and Supplies (P9,952,500.00).* Bids received in excess of the ABC shall automatically be rejected at Bid opening.

2. The GOVERNOR CELESTINO GALLARES MEMORIAL HOSPITAL now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *Supply and Delivery of Hospital Equipment and Supplies.* Delivery of the GOODS required is: *for supplies 10 calendar days and for equipment 30-60 calendar days.* The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from GOVERNOR CELESTINO GALLARES MEMORIAL HOSPITAL BAC Chairman, *Luz R. Rosales* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *1:00 – 5:00 p.m.*

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address given below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of *Php 1,000.00 per category for supplies and Php 1,500.00 for equipment.* The method of payment will be *Cash.* The bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

6. The GOVERNOR CELESTINO GALLARES MEMORIAL HOSPITAL will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *May 24, 2006 / 2:00 PM at GCGMH Audio Visual Room.*

7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the *GCGMH Audio Visual Room on or before 10:00 A.M. on the scheduled opening of bids* per category. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following forms. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Form of Bid Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash	One percent (1%)
2. GSIS Bond	Two and a half percent (2 1/2%)

8. Bid opening shall be on the following schedules listed below at *10:00 A.M. at GCGMH Audio-Visual Room.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

Date	Category
June 5, 2006	Miscellaneous Supplies
	Housekeeping Supplies
	Dietary Supplies
	Engineering Supplies
June 7, 2006	Medical / Surgical Supplies
June 13, 2006	Dental Supplies
	X-ray Supplies
	Office Supplies
	Medical Oxygen Supplies
	Linen Supplies
June 15, 2006	Drugs and Medicine Supplies
June 21, 2006	Medical Equipment
	Non-Medical Equipment
	Laboratory Supplies

9. The GOVERNOR CELESTINO GALLARES MEMORIAL HOSPITAL reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Governor Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital
Luz R. Rosales, BAC Chairman
Dormitory Manager
Miguel Parras St. Tagbilaran City, Bohol
Tel. No. (038) 411-4868 / (038) 411-4869 / (038) 501-7531 loc. 242
Fax No. (038) 411-4831
E-mail address: gcgmh@globelines.com.ph

(Sgd.) LUZ R. ROSALES
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI – April 30 & May 6, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

PHILIPPINES
JUDICIAL REFORM SUPPORT PROJECT
Loan No. 7191 PH
BAC-JRSP-03-ICB-WORKS

This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in *Development Business*, issue no. 616 of 16 October 2003.

The *Government of the Philippines has received a loan* from the *International Bank for Reconstruction and Development* toward the cost of the Judicial Reform Support Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this *loan* to payments under the Contract for the Construction/Renovation of the Angeles City Hall of Justice.

The *Supreme Court of the Philippines* now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Construction/Renovation of the Angeles City Hall of Justice. The delivery/construction period is from September 2006 to December 2007.

Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits of January 1999*, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Bidding Documents.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Dir. Nestor U. Venturillo, Head, Bids and Awards Committee for the Action Program for Judicial Reform (BAC–APJR) Secretariat, e-mail: nestor_venturillo@supremecourt.gov.ph and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Qualifications requirements include: To qualify for award of the Contract, bidders shall meet the following minimum qualifying criteria:

(a) an average annual financial amount of construction work over the period of five (5) years of at least multiple of two (2);

(b) experience as prime contractor in the construction of at least two (2) works of a nature and complexity equivalent to the Works over the period of five (5) years (to comply with this requirement, works cited should be at least 100 percent complete);

(c) proposals for the timely acquisition (own, lease, hire, etc.) of the essential equipment;

(d) a Project Manager with ten years experience in works of an equivalent nature and volume, including no less than three years as Manager; and

(e) liquid assets and/or credit facilities, net of other contractual commitments and exclusive of any advance payments which may be made under the Contract, of no less than Php70,000,000.00.

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee Php30,000.00 or in *convertible currency*. The method of payment will be in cash or cashier's check.

Bids must be delivered to the address below at 2:30 p.m. on 19 June 2006. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at 2:31 p.m., 19 June 2006.

A Pre-Bid conference will be conducted on 29 May 2006 at exactly 2:30 p.m. at the Supreme Court Training Center, Ground Floor, Centennial Building, Padre Faura St., Ermita, Manila.

All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security amounting to Php3,700,000.00 *or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.*

The address(es) referred to above is 6th Floor, Centennial Building, Supreme Court of the Philippines, Padre Faura St., Ermita, Manila Philippines, tel. nos. 552-95-84 and fax nos. 552-95-86.

(Sgd.) CHRISTOPHER O. LOCK
Deputy Court Administrator and
Chairman, BAC-APJR

(PDI – April 30 & May 7, 2006)

DepED

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Printing and Delivery of EASE Modules

Date: April 20, 2006
Loan No.: 1654-PHI: Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP)

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepED) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contracts for the Printing and Delivery of Effective/Alternative Secondary Education (EASE) Modules.

2. The DepED through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Printing and Delivery of the following:
   2.1 Lot 1: EASE Modules for First Year: 34,680 copies
   2.2 Lot 2: EASE Modules for Second Year: 37,995 copies
   2.3 Lot 3: EASE Modules for Third Year: 36,210 copies
   2.4 Lot 4: EASE Modules for Fourth Year: 44,370 copies

3. International Shopping (IS) will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single Stage: One Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries. A Bidder may opt to bid on any or all of the lots required.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from DepED and inspect the Bidding Documents from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting **May 3, 2006** at the Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Pasig City, Philippines, at Tel. Nos. (632)636-6543/633-9343 or at Fax No. (632)635-6542. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or **www.procurementservice.org.**

5. The Bidding Documents in the English language may be purchased by interested eligible bidders to the address given in paragraph 5 upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Php 1,000.00. The method of payment will be cash, cashier's check, manager's check, or certified check.

6. Bids must be delivered to Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines at on or before **10:00 a.m.** on **May 30, 2006.** All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of 2.0% of the total bid amount, in Philippine peso or in any freely convertible currency of eligible countries. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the given address, time and date.

7 Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference shall be conducted on **May 17, 2006** at **10:00 a.m.** at the same address indicated in paragraph 4.

8. The DepED reserves the right to accept and reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process at any time prior to award of Contract(s) without incurring any liability to the affected bidders and to waive any minor informality or non-conformity in a bid which does not constitute a material deviation, provided such waiver will not prejudice or affect competitive ranking of any bid.

9. The Department of Education will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.

(Sgd.) ATTY. MACUR D. MAROHOMBSAR
BAC Vice Chairman

(PDI – APRIL 30 & MAY 7, 2006)

CEBU PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE SERVICES (CPILS)

Cebu Pacific International Language Services, Inc. (CPILS, INC.) is a pioneering EFL/ESL center specializing in teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) to Asian students. We are looking for competent individuals to fill the following position:

NATIVE SPEAKERS (Full - time) →

- Between 27–40 years old
- Must be an Australian, American, Canadian and British citizen
- Preferably a holder of Philippine resident visa
- Preferably with bachelor's degree or CELTA/TEFL/TESL certificate
- ESL teaching experience is an advantage
- Must be energetic, outgoing and creative
- Must be a good organizer and positive team member
- Must possess good interpersonal skills

For the applicants who are currently outside the Philippines, please submit a video of your teaching demo to the address specified below

For the applicants who are currently in the Philippines, please be prepared to present a 1-hour teaching demo to a group of students.

Applicants must submit their **application letter with recent 2x2 picture, resumé, TOR, certificate of employment or recommendation letter, copy of any teaching certificate** to:

ADMIN OFFICE
Cebu Pacific International Language Services
Benedicto Bldg. (formerly Harbor View Hotel)
M.J. Cuenco Avenue Cebu, City, Philippines 6000

or you can send your applications through both e-mail addresses:
cpils_hrd@yahoo.com.ph / cpils_cebu@hotmail.com

AMA BANK

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AMA GROUP OF COMPANIES
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USED CAR LOAN PROMO
SPECIAL INTEREST RATE AS LOW AS
7% p.a.
ACCEPTABLE YEAR MODELS
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Fast Processing and Check release.
For more details Pls. call at Tel. Nos.
413-5777 / 372-6698 / 372-6526 / 373-9913
416-8144/416-8145/373-3901 loc. 8302/8303/8220

DISTRIBUTOR WANTED

For a top brand of automotive & industrial lubricants

- Must be enthusiastic and driven to succeed
- Minimum capital requirement of P2 Million
- Will serve the Manila, Pasay, Taguig, Parañaque, Muntinlupa & Las Piñas areas

Call 886-3077 during office hours for more details

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the RCBC Stock Certificate # 626 Preferred C with 10,000 shares under the name of LIWAYWAY HERNANDEZ was lost. If no contest received new certificate will be issued.

(PDI – APRIL 30, MAY 7 & 14, 2006)

Looking for the right CONDO?
Log on to:
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1-2-3BR Available
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887-4648 / 0919-8504468

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES!!!

FARM MANAGER, FARM TECHNICIAN AND SWINE HERDPERSON

A Corporation now being established is looking for personnel that will be fielded in their newly built farm located in Samal, Bataan.

This position requires knowledge in general farm duties specialize in swine.

QUALIFICATION:

- Graduate of Animal Science/ Animal Husbandry/ Agriculture/ or other related Bachelor's Degree.
- Pro-Active, Mature, Able to work independently with strong sense of responsibility.
- Motivated, self-starter with the ability to see the "big picture" without losing track of the details.
- Experience is required for Farm Manager and Farm Technician, however, for swine herdperson experience is not a must.
- Willing to work or be relocated in Samal, Bataan.

Apply in person and Look for Normita Dela Cruz Fermin @ #69 **Sagittarius St., Aristocrat Village, Talon III, Las Piñas City.**
Telefax: 801-2871

Bring your RESUME with 2x2 picture, NBI Clearance, Diploma and Transcript of Records and other pertinent documents for proper screening of your application.

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dti
TRADE & INDUSTRY

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of janitorial and allied services for DTI and its attached agencies for a period of one (1) year, with an approved budget of Sixteen million pesos (Php 16,000,000.00).

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting **24 April to 8 May 2006** during office hours at the Supply Section, General Administrative Service, Ground Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City c/o Mr. Claudio H Averilla, with telephone number 751-4996, after paying a non-refundable fee of Sixteen thousand pesos (Php 16,000.00). A pre-bid conference will be held on **8 May 2006, 9:30 A.M.** at the Center Conference Room, 6th Floor, Trade & Industry Building 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Deadline for the submission of the eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals, and the opening of bids will be on **22 May 2006, 9:30 A.M.** at the Center Conference Room, 6th Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue Makati City. The DTI Bids and Awards Committee will not entertain late bidders.

The DTI reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defect therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the government. The DTI assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) MA. LOURDES T. BAUA
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson
DTI Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI- April 23 & 30, 2006)

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
Basement, MWSI Bldg., MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines 1100
Tel. Nos. 435-33-66, 920-5521 loc. 3600, 3615, 3616

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & BID

The Maynilad Water Services, Inc. is inviting all interested suppliers/contractors **to pre-qualify and participate in the Sealed Bid** for the supply and delivery of CY 2007 Male and Female Office and Field Uniforms.

Description
CY 2007 MWSI MALE AND FEMALE EMPLOYEES' UNIFORMS **(For Office and Field Employees)** **As per MWSI Bid Terms and Conditions**

Interested suppliers may, beginning May 02, 2006 until May 05, 2006 and upon payment of a non-refundable Participating Fee of P2,500.00, obtain further information and secure complete set of pre-qualification and bid documents at the Purchasing Department, Basement, MWSI Building, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City (Tel. No. 435-3366 and 435-3374).

Prospective Bidders who are issued bid documents are required to attend the ***Pre-Bid Conference to be held at the HROD Seminar Room on May 08, 2006, starting at 9:00 A.M.***

Deadline for submission of the accomplishment Pre-Qualification Documents is ***on or before 3:00 P.M. of May 11, 2006.***

MWSI reserves the right to reject any or all bid without offering any reason, waive any and all informalities therein and award the contract to one or more bidders under any circumstances which are deemed most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) LUIS Z. LERMA
Manager, Purchasing Dept.

(PDI - April 29 & 30, 2006)

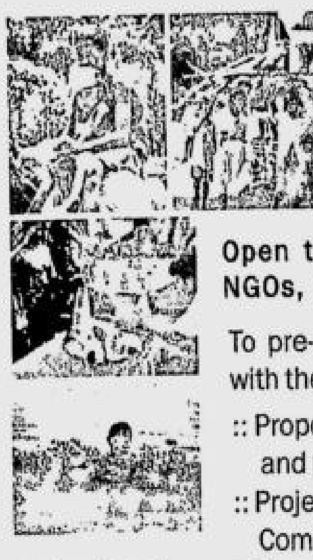
JOB Market
visit us at: www.jobmarketonline.com

Reduce Poverty & Promote Social Justice
BID NOW!!!

:: **Start up Eco-Enterprise** projects that are economically viable, environmentally sound, and with social/community orientation with a maximum grant amount of P1,500,000.00

:: **Capacity Building** or projects in support to eco-enterprise development &/or community-based livelihood projects with a maximum grant amount of P500,000.00

:: **Advocacy** projects that focus on Asset Reform, Development Financing, Women and Environment with a maximum grant amount of P100,000.00



Important Dates to Remember		
	1st Batch	2nd Batch
Cut-off date for submission of concept paper	May 30	August 15
First screening/announcement of short-listed proponents	June 5	September 4
Deadline for submission of full blown project proposal	July 5	October 4
Second level screening/Field appraisal	July 5-31	October 5-31
Announcement of successful proponents	August 30	November 30

The Foundation for a Sustainable Society, Inc. (FSSI) is a non-stock, non-profit organization that aims to empower marginalized communities through its support and promotion of eco-enterprises that are socially equitable, ecologically sound and economically viable.

Open to all duly-registered/accredited NGOs, POs & cooperatives

To pre-qualify, submit a **3-page concept paper** with the following information:

:: Proponent's profile (Brief history, VMG and programs/services, areas of operation)
:: Project description (Rationale/Objectives, Components and key activities)
:: Expected results of the proposed project
:: Project duration & target start up.
:: Indicative budget & requested financial assistance

Submit a Board Resolution indicating your application w/ FSSI and authorized/designated representative/s.

Log on to FSSI website:www.fssi.com.ph for more details. Email fssi@fssi.com.ph or mail your concept papers to 46E Samar Ave. cor E. Lopez St., South Triangle, Q.C. We will not entertain follow-up mails or calls.

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
GUAGUA, PAMPANGA

April 28, 2006

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (PELCO II) WITH OFFICE ADDRESS AT SAN ROQUE, GUAGUA, PAMPANGA IS INVITING ELIGIBLE BIDDERS FOR THE SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF ONE (1) COMPLETE SET OF SF6 CIRCUIT BREAKER (DEAD TANK) WITH BATTERY CHARGER, BATTERY AND CONTROL PANEL.

Specification:

Rated Maximum Volts	–	72.5Kv
Rated Continuous Current	–	1,200 A
Frequency	–	60 Hz
Brand	–	Made & Manufactured at USA or Europe

You are therefore invited for the pre-qualification to bid on May 4, 2006 (Thursday), 10:00 A.M. at PELCO II Board Room San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga wherein there will be an open discussion with regards to the specification of the unit and in preparation for the bidding proper scheduled on May 11, 2006 (Thursday) at 10:00 A.M.

The PBAC will only accept units made and manufactured from USA and Europe.

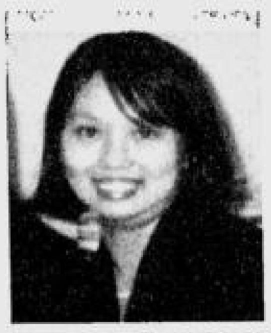
Please be informed that non-attendance on scheduled pre-qualification to bid is an outright disqualification for those bidders who wants to join the bidding proper.

For more information please see/ contact Engr. Raul L. Canlas or Engr. Agosto L. Ocampo at PELCO II Office or dial numbers at (045) 901-0865, 900-2650.

(Sgd.) ENGR. RAUL L. CANLAS
PBAC Chairperson

(PDI – April 30 & May 1, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



MA. BERMA S. CABRERA

TECHNOPAQ, INC. hereby gives notice that its former employee, **MA. BERMA S. CABRERA**, whose photo appears above, is the subject of Crim. Cases Nos. 128605-67 for estafa and qualified theft pending before the Regional Trial Court of Pasig City, Br. 152, and Crim. Case No. 82080 for falsification. A warrant for her arrest has been issued by the RTC of Pasig City, Branch 152 and has remained unserved because of her unknown whereabouts. Any information on the whereabouts of **MS. CABRERA** may be relayed to Technopaq, Inc. at tel. no. 6715611.

(PDI - April 30, 2006)

DBP
Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION FOR NEGOTIATED OFFER

The Development Bank of the Philippines will entertain offers on a First-Come, First-Served basis at the Asset Management Department, Ground Floor, DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties:

CODE NO.	DESCRIPTION	AREA (sq.m.)	LOCATION	Floor Price
REAL ESTATE				
METRO MANILA				
CWB-34	Vacant residential lot (TCT No. 158163)	3,000	Asia World City, Bo. Tambo, Parañaque City	P 85,200,000.00
CWB-35	Residential lot (TCT No. 220220) w/ bldg.	433	No. 7895 Lawaan St., San Antonio Village, Makati City	P 12,405,200.00
CWB-33	Vacant residential lot (TCT No. 434637)	436	Santan St., La Colina Subd., Bayanbayanan, Marikina City	P 1,177,200.00
LP-2	Vacant residential lot (TCT No. C-346198)	100	No. 11, Block 3, Moonstreet, Villa Amor Dos Subdv., Zabarte, Caloocan City	P 350,000.00
AM-RP-116	House & lot (TCT No. N-284589)	89	Lot 16, Blk 23, Parkwood Hills Subd.,Brgy., Payatas, Quezon City	P 377,700.00
AM-RT-117	House & lot (TCT No. N-224211)	60	9-B, Parkwood Hills Subd., Brgy., Payatas, Quezon City	P 253,600.00
BATANGAS				
AM-RP-118	House & lot (TCT No. 157452)	40	Lot 21 Blk. 13, Transville Homes Subd., Brgy. Banay-Banay, Lipa City	P 206,700.00
BULACAN				
CWB-36	3-parcels of contiguous subdivision lots [(TCT No. 409463(M),T-409464(M) T-409465(M)] w/ bldg.	13,292	Bo. Minuyan, Norzagaray	P 17,994,500.00
CWB-37	Agricultural lot [TCT-417780(M)] with bldgs.	13,852	Paradise Drive, San Jose Del Monte	P 7,146,800.00
CWB-38	Agro-residential lot [TCT-415955(M)] with bldgs.	11,388	Dulong Bayan, San Jose Del Monte	P 3,662,200.00
CWB-39	Residential/commercial lot (TCT-191823) with bldgs.	7,361	Bo. Sampaloc, San Rafael	P 4,490,800.00
LP-1	2-parcels of residential/ industrial lots (TCT No. T-118054) with bldgs. & chattels	1,686	Tabang, Plaridel	P 3,933,020.00
AM-MR-119	House and lot (TCT No. T-448655)	42	Lot 1 Blk. 2, GrottoVille Homes, Gaya-gaya, San Jose Del Monte	P 175,700.00
CAGAYAN VALLEY				
COM-34	Residential/commercial lot (TCT T-139050) with bldgs. & chattels	2,187	Aparri-Tuguegarao National Road, Bagumbayan, Lallo	P 5,700,000.00
LAGUNA				
CWB-40	Residential lot (TCT No.313518)	809	Bohol St., Southpoint Subd., Phase I, Niyugan, Cabuyao	P 3,397,800.00
CWB-41	Residential lot (TCT No.375586)	308	Corner Tawi Tawi & Palawan Sts., Southpoint Subd., Phase I, Malitlit, Sta. Rosa	P 1,293,600.00
RIZAL				
CWB-42	2-parcels of agricultural lots (TCT Nos. 429681 & 429680) with bldgs.	29,318	Patiis Road, San Mateo	P 15,268,000.00
AM-ML121	5-parcels of industrial lots (TCT Nos. 509723 - 509727) with 23 various bldgs.	23,874	Ortigas Ave. Ext., Cainta	P 309,461,900.00
TARLAC				
AM-FD-122	House & lot (TCT No. T-399344)	40	Lot 9 Blk. 11 Worthy St. Capitol Villas Subd., Brgy. Carangian, Tarlac City	P 358,500.00
(CHATTELS - Sale on "as is where is basis")				
AM-JA-123	1-unit Offset Press Machine, HAMADA, 25" x 38" printing size, with standard accessories		La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City	P 125,000.00
AM-DE-124	3-units passenger buses, Hino Model, 67 seater, 6 wheeler; 1-unit passenger bus, 53-seater w/ Isuzu engine (all not operational)		Gem Village, Maa, Davao City (Bus No. 5516 & 5518); Ma-a Road, Davao City across Emission Testing Center (Bus No. 5517); Km. 7, Lanang, Davao City (Bus No. 5514).	P 151,400.00
AM-JA-125	2-units hydraulic press, 250 tons capacity, 24 in. diameter ram with accessories		No. 6 Banner St., Bagong Ilog, Pasig City	P 525,000.00

Forms for negotiated offers may be obtained from AMD-Acquired Assets.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1566/893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2158/2159 for Code starting with AM, and (052) 480-7066/480-7081 and 818-9511 loc. 1423 for LP and 920-49-09 for CWB.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI – April 30, 2006)

THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES
wishes to announce its

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID ON

Name of the Project: Lease of The Manila Film Center (MFC)

Brief Project Description: Lease of the following areas of the Manila Film Center (MFC) building, with a total area of 52,961.49 sq.m

1.	Archives Level	–	12,234.90 sq.m
2.	Intermediate Level	–	7,588.27 sq.m
3.	Colonade Level	–	6,839.32 sq.m
4.	Second Level	–	1,240.20 sq.m
5.	Third Level	–	1,447.35 sq.m
6.	Fourth Level	–	7,137.77 sq.m
7.	Ramp & Stairs outside the Building	–	16,473.68 sq.m

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act."

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat (c/o Cecilia E. Funtinilla) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below starting May 09, 2006 from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000). The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The CCP BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on May 12, 2006; 1:30pm, 3/F Tanghalang Pambansa CCP (Main Bldg.)

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before May 26, 2006; 1:30pm. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash/certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit or bank guarantee or surety bond based on the agency approved budget for contract. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on May 26, 2006; 1:30pm at the CCP Board Room 3/F Tanghalang Pambansa, CCP Complex, Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives.

The award of the project shall be based on the highest calculated responsive bid received from the Bidders.

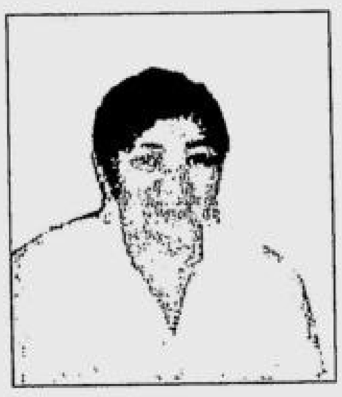
The CCP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

BAC Secretariat
Cecilia E. Funtinilla
3/F CCP Tanghalang Pambansa (CCP Main Bldg.)
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Tel. Nos. 632-832-3667
632-832-1125 local 1106/1107
Fax No. 632-551-5960
Website: www.culturalcenter.gov.ph

(Sgd.) CHRIS B. MILLADO
BAC Chair

(PDI – April 30 & May 7, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Please be informed that Ms. Madelyn " Madel" Mateo whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with Puerto Del Sol Beach Resort and Hotel Club effective April 1, 2006. Any transaction entered by her after the said date, shall not be honored by this company.

(PDI - April 30, 2006)

INVITATION TO *RE-APPLY* FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO *RE-BID*

The Baguio Water District, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to re-apply for eligibility and to re-bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Procurement of Security Services
Location : various pumping stations, reservoirs, main office, collection units and other facilities of the BWD.
Approved Budget For the Contract : P46.90 per hour/guard (P6,196,897.00 per year)
Contract Duration : one (1) year renewable upon mutual agreement of the parties

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Eligibility checklist	4 May 2006
2. Submission of eligibility requirements	18 May 2006
3. Issuance of notice of eligibility/ineligibility	25 May 2006
4. Pre-bid conference	13 June 2006
5. Submission of bids by eligible bidders	26 June 2006

Bid Documents will be available only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of one thousand pesos (P1,000.00) to the BWD Cashier.

The Baguio Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

ATTY. MA. LUISA C. TENEDERO
BAC Chairman

(PDI-April 23 & 30, 2006)

RIVIERA GOLF CLUB, INC.

NOTICE OF SALE OF DELINQUENT RGCI SHARES AT AUCTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE RIVIERA GOLF CLUB,INC. (RGCI) WILL SELL THE FOLLOWING DELINQUENT SHARES AT A PUBLIC AUCTION PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE BY-LAWS, FOR NON-PAYMENT OF THE MONTHLY DUES AND OTHER ASSESSMENTS:

A-1107, A-0948, B-0277
A-0558, A-0603, C-0212
A-0935, A-0611, A-1246
A-0070, A-0236, A-0086
A-0758, A-1316, A-0834
A-1162, B-0030, A-1114
A-0059, B-0276, B-0125

THE AUCTION DATE IS SET ON MAY 5, 2006 AT 10:00 O'CLOCK A.M., AT THE TEE PAVILION, RIVIERA GOLF CLUB, INC., SILANG, CAVITE.

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING. PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER WITH THE CLUB PRIOR TO THE ACTUAL TIME OF BIDDING.

DETAILED REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES IN THE CONDUCT OF THE PUBLIC AUCTION MAYBE SECURED FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT OF THE CLUB.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

(Sgd.) ATTY. ROLANDO G. BORJA
CORPORATE SECRETARY

(PDI - April 30, 2006)

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(PDI-April 23 & 30, 2006)

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RESIDENTIAL

LAGUNA – San Pedro	MIN BID
Colina Subd (nr Toll gate & Filipinas Golf)	
1 Lot / Lot 52 Blk 1 / LA 70	406,000
2. Lot / Lot 53 Blk 1 / LA 50	290,000
3 Lot / Lot 54 Blk 1 / LA 80	464,000
4. Lot / Lot 5 Blk 3 / LA 70	406,000
5 Lot / Lot 6 Blk 3 / LA 50	290,000
6 Lot / Lot 7 Blk 3 / LA 50	290,000
7 Lot / Lot 8 Blk 3 / LA 50	290,000
8 Lot / Lot 11 Blk 3 / LA 50	290,000
9 Lot / Lot 12 Blk 3 / LA 50	290,000
10. Lot / Lot 13 Blk 3 / LA 50	290,000
11. Lot / Lot 14 Blk 3 / LA 70	406,000
12. Lot / Lot 2 Blk 4 / LA 50	290,000
13. Lot / Lot 3 Blk 4 / LA 50	290,000
14. Lot / Lot 4 Blk 4 / LA 70	406,000
15. Lot / Lot 5 Blk 4 / LA 70	406,000
16. Lot / Lot 6 Blk 4 / LA 50	290,000
17. Lot / Lot 7 Blk 4 / LA 50	290,000
18. Cor. Lot / Lot 1 Blk 4 / LA 83	498,000
19. Cor. Lot / Lot 8 Blk 4 / LA 84	504,000
20. Cor. Lot / Lot 9 Blk 3 / LA 89	534,000
21. Cor. Lot / Lot10 Blk 3 / LA 92	552,000

LAGUNA – Sta. Rosa	MIN BID
22. Cor. Lot/Lot 18 Blk 3 Albright cor Baylor Sts. Golden Meadows Exec Vill. Brgy Sinalhan / LA 140 (via Mamplasan Toll Gate & nr Pavilion Mall)	453,000

PARANAQUE – San Dionisio	MIN BID
23. H&L / # 7 Pres. Roxas St Malacanang Vill / LA-240, FA-88 (nr City Hall & Buensuceso Hms)	1,600,000

QUEZON CITY	MIN BID
24. Hse & Lot / # 19 Balabac St Araneta Vill, Brgy. Dona Imelda LA-777, FA-348 (near Quezon Inst. & SM Centerpoint)	10,500,000
25. H&L/# 269 M Aquino St. Banlat Rd,T Sora LA 120 / FA 191 (near NPC / NIA Subdivision)	1,350,000

LAS PINAS – Talon Dos	MIN BID
26 2 Sty Thse/ # 475 C.North 11 St. Angela Vill, Brgy Talon 2 LA 68/FA 101 (access via Happy Vile)	1,400,000

ANTIPOLO, RIZAL (Lots)	MIN BID
27 H&L, L-7 B-3, Valley Golf Dr. Valley Golf Subd , Mayamot LA 1,961 / FA 107 (nr Ortigas Extn)	4,300,000
28. L 20 B 17, Jerusalem St. Palmera Hills,Ph-5,Brgy Uulan/LA 120 Via Tikling Junction & Melendres Subd)	299,000
29. L 23 B 10, Cottonwood Hts Bayugo / LA 266 (nr Sumulong)	1,332,000
30. L 21 B 2, Birchwood St. Cottonwood Hts, Bayugo / LA 355	1,778,000
31. Lot 47 Blk 18,Park Ridge Est Ph 3 (via Valley Golf) LA 811	1,852,000
32 L 17 B 1, Beverly St, Sta Barbara 1,Mission Hills Colaique/LA 1,021 (nr Pines City)	3,692,000

TAGAYTAY CITY	MIN BID
between Sta. Rosa, Lag. Short-cut & Aguinaldo H-way	
33 Lot/Lot 8, Tagaytay Calamba Rd, Tolentino West (over looking Taal Lake) LA 2,156 * wth Lis Pendens	20,000,000

MUNTINLUPA – Alabang	MIN BID
San Jose Vill. (infront of Alabang Town Cntr)	
34 Lot / Lot 264 (Pcs 4946) St Joseph St / LA 526 * w/ Court Decision in favor of Unionbank	4,000,000

MAKATI CITY - Kingswood Twr	MIN BID
P. Tamo cor V. Cruz Extn, near Shopwise	
35 Penthse / Unit P2F Tower B 28th & 29th flrs / FA 154	7,208,000
36 Penthse / Unit P3F Tower B 26th & 27th flrs / FA - 154	7,208,000

BULACAN – Plaridel	MIN BID
Brgy. Lalangan - Plaridel Heights	
37 Cor Lot / L 2 B 47, LA 355	1,243,000
38 Cor. Lot / L 13 B 7, LA 404	1,414,000
39. Cor. Lot / L 2 B 38, LA 411	1,439,000
40 Lot / Lot 25 Blk 8, LA 350	1,155,000

NUEVA ECIJA - Cab. City	MIN BID
# 529 Pag Asa, Daan Sarili (near LTO)	
41 Lot / Lot 3 A 5 / LA 1,847	401,000
42 Lot / Lot 3 A 4 / LA 1,847	401,000
43 Lot / Lot 3 A 3 / LA 1,848	401,000
44 Lot / Lot 3 A 2 / LA 1,848	401,000
45 Lot / Lot 3 A 1 / LA 1,839	401,000

CALOOCAN – Gracepark	MIN BID
46 Lot / L 25 & 26 B 31, 2nd St LA 388 (between 3rd & 4th Ave)	3,428,000

VALENZUELA – Nr Malinta Exit	MIN BID
47. Lot / Lot 551 A 2 A 3, Pineda Compd Bonifacio St / LA 1,114	2,241,000

ANGONO, Rzl. (via Antipolo)	MIN BID
48 Lot/L6 B2, Mills St, Sta Monica Classic Est, Ph 3, Mission Hills Brgy Colaique LA 540 (near Pines City)	1,700,000

TARLAC (via Hacienda Luisita)	MIN BID
49 2 Sty H&L / L 7 B 18, Family Park Homes, Brgy Cut-Cut II San Miguel / LA 62 / FA 40	255,000

SAN MATEO,RIZAL-Bo.Patiis	MIN BID
50 *Lot / B 15, LA 40,171	1,607,000
51 *Lot / B 16, LA 40,171	1,607,000
52 *Lot / B 17, LA 40,171	1,607,000
53. *Lot / B 18, LA 40,171	1,607,000
* No Right Of Way	

CAVITE – Carmona (Lot)	MIN BID
54 L 28 B 4, Ph 1, St. Andrew St Manila Southwoods,Cabilang Baybay LA 450 (near Gate 1) * w/ Court Decision in favor of Unionbank	3,005,000

JUST BRING P20,000 (CASH OR MC) SHOW MONEY TO QUALIFY TO BID FOR EACH PROPERTY. CWT IS FOR THE BUYER'S ACCOUNT. ALL PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS
Unionbank may, at anytime, withdraw any of the properties listed above prior to auction

RESIDENTIAL

CAVITE – Dasmarinas	MIN BID
55. H&L/ L 35 B 8, Iowa St., Ivory Crest Subd, Salitran-II / LA-35, FA-42 (near Our lady Of Fatima Parish)	390,000
56. Hse & Lot/ L 5 B 9, Queen St Regency Exec. T'Hms, Sitio Malinta Brgy. Sampaloc-II / LA-50, FA-68 (near PCU-UTS & Malinta Elem. Schl)	700,000

CAVITE – Imus	MIN BID
57. H&L/ L 11 B 4, Magsaysay St Villa Elisa Subd, Anabu-II LA-66, FA-63 (near Athena Subd, Ford & San Miguel)	435,000

Orchard Res'l. Estates and Golf & Country Club - Salitran, Dasmarinas, Cavite	
FAIRWAY LOTS	
58 Lot 46 Blk 50 / LA 630	2,394,000
59. Lot 49 Blk 50 / LA 582	2,212,000
60. Lot 50 Blk 50 / LA 627	2,383,000
NON - FAIRWAY LOTS	
61. Lot 35 Blk 37 / LA 687	2,061,000
62. Lot 12 Blk 38 / LA 653	1,959,000
63 Lot 06 Blk 45 / LA 1,085	3,255,000

CAVITE - Molino III, Bacoor	MIN BID
Central Phase 2, Springville Subd. (Lots)	
64. L 2 B 1, near ClubHse / LA 96	677,000
65. L 3 B 1, near ClubHse / LA 96	677,000
66. L 4 B 1, near ClubHse / LA 122	861,000
67. L 5 B 1, near ClubHse / LA 232	1,636,000
68. L 3 B 2, near ClubHse / LA 97	684,000
69 L 4 B 2, near ClubHse / LA 114	804,000
70 L 24 B 7,MB Villar Ave /LA 120	974,000
Madelaine Place, Springville Subd.	
71. Lot / Lot 8 Blk 1 / LA 117	582,000
72. Lot / Lot 6 Blk 4 / LA 120	596,000
73. Lot / Lot 10 Blk 3 / LA 123	611,000
74. Lot / Lot 18 Blk 6 / LA 132	656,000
75 Lot / Lot 19 Blk 7 / LA 132	656,000
Washington Manor, Springville Subd.	
76 Lot / Lot 2 Blk 2 / LA 154	1,020,000

CAVITE- Brgy. Palangue, Naic	MIN BID
Mango Orchard Res'l. & Farm Estates	
77 Lot 6 Blk 19A / LA 1,249	1,249,000
78. Lot 5 Blk 19B / LA 3,052	3,052,000
79. Lot 8 Blk 19B / LA 1,890	1,890,000
80. Cor.Lot 9 Blk 19B / LA 2,247	2,585,000
81. Cor.Lot 1 Blk 24 / LA 1,624	1,868,000

COMMERCIAL / AGR.
(SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL)

MAKATI CITY	MIN BID
82. Comml / Resl Lot / # 3904 Quingua St, Brgy Pinagkaisahan LA 612 (beside Forbes Park) * w/ Final Supreme Court Decision	18,000,000
Pio Del Pilar, near South Super Hi-way & EDSA	
83. *Lot/L1,Evangelista St/LA 150	5,775,000
84. *Lot/L2,Evangelista St/LA 150	5,925,000
85. *Lot/L3,Evangelista St/LA 150	6,075,000
86. *Lot / L4,Evangelista St corner Arguelles St / LA 171	7,268,000
* w/ approved subd plan, TCT under UBP in process	
Millenium Plaza- Mktl. Ave cor Eduque St	
87 Condo Unit / 5/F, FA 261 (near former International Schl)	17,765,000

TARLAC CITY – Poblacion	MIN BID
Panganiban St. - across Iceplant	
88 Lot / Lot 4 A 1 / LA 373	5,390,000
89 Lot / Lot 4 A 2 / LA 373	5,390,000
90 Lot / Lot 4 A 37 LA 374	5,405,000
91 Lot / Lot 4C, Rizal St/ LA 759	8,094,000

PARANAQUE – San Dionisio	MIN BID
92. Lot-1-B & 1-C / Net LA-9,562 (back of SM Sucat & access) Beside Shell) w/ Lis Pendens	25,161,000

MANILA – Divisoria (KP Twr.)	MIN BID
93 Condo, 2/F, CM Recto Ave cor Juan Luna St / FA 658 *on Lease	28,792,000

NUEVA ECIJA - Cab. City	MIN BID
# 529 Pag-Asa, Daan Sarili (near L.T.O.)	
94 Agri Lot / Lot 3B / LA 37,041	2,366,000
95 Comml Lot w/ Whse & Offc Lot 2H / LA 2,260 / FA 580	5,098,000

QUEZON CITY	MIN BID
96 Building / Lots 8 & 9 Blk S 27 Timog Ave LA 1,380 FA 1,500 (nr Unionbank Br & GMA-7) *on Lease	70,000,000
97. Whouse / 185 Roosevelt Ave S F Del Monte / LA 5,641 FA 3,454 (infront of Watch Twr)	140,000,000
98 Warehouse / # 138 Gen Luis cor Pasacola Rd, Nagkaisang Nayon, Novaliches LA 49 504 / FA 23,384	300,000,000

VALENZUELA CITY	MIN BID
99 Whse / Lot 13 Templanza St D Pedro Vill, Marulas LA 2,540 FA 3,314. (near Savory Rest)	18,209,000
100 Indl Lot w/ 2 Whses (14&16) Barracks, Canteen,Guardhse Lot 1075 D 1 C, Plastic City 6 T Santiago St, Canumay-West LA 9,923 / FA 7,096	39,703,000
101 Indl Lot w/ Whse / # 47 Maysan Rd / LA 7,871 / FA 7,040 (near Maysan Elem School)	40,702,000
102 Industrial Lot / Lot 382 C Plastic City Housing,Canumay LA 25,798 (via T Santiago & Pinagbayanan Sts)	45,000,000

SARIAYA - QUEZON PROV.	MIN BID
103 Agri Lot w/ resl H&L, Whse & Piggery/Lot 6181 A 5 A 1 A 1 D, E,F,G,I & Lot 6181 A 4,Psd 4A 001202, Bo Sampaloc/ LA 101,038, FA 9,277 (along the Hi-way) * with Lis Pendens	45,053,000

CAVITE - Tanza, Bo. Tres Cruces	MIN BID
nr Transville Subd, via Trece Martires	
104 Agri Lot / Lot-2931 (Rs-1273) LA 40,127 / * w/ Adverse Claim & No Right Of Way	5,117,000

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JAC FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP INC. 100 C Palanca St. Quiapo, Manila will sell all unredeemed pledges for the months of OCT. & NOV. 2005 on May 22, 2006 at 9am. J. Lanuza Auctioneer (PDI - April 30, 2006)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is Given that the Estate of the late CONSTANTINO C.MAYOR has been extrajudicially settled among heirs Before NotaryPublic Romerico Espera of Quezon City as Per Doc No. 434,Page No. 87 Book No. VIII Series of 2006.
(PDI-Apr. 23,30&May 7,2006

Notice is given that the estate of the late FRANCISCO SERRA ZULUETA JR has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs before Notary Public Rudyard Arbolado of Makati City as Per Doc No. 372 Page No. 76 Book No 7 Series of 2006
PDI--April 30, May 7 & 14,2006

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estates of the late spouses JUAN E. DOCTO & NENA TANADA-DOCTO have been adjudicated by the heirs per DOC#126, Page#27, Book I, Series of 2004 before Notary Public Aguedo L. Gepte , City of Manila.
(PDI- Apr. 16, 23 & 30, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ALEJANDRA M. FLORES consisting of personal property was extrajudicially settled and distributed among her heirs VICENTE M. FLORES, DOMICIANO M. FLORES and JOSE M. FLORES by means of a public document executed on April 23, 2006 and ratified before Atty. ARLENE R. ABELEDA, Notary Public of Makati City as per Doc#10, Page#3, Book #2 Series of 2006.
(PDI-April 30, May 7 & 14, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of Rovin G. Aspenia who died on Aug. 26, 2000 has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs before Notary Public Hobart T. Cocadiz as per Doc. No. 514, Page No. 104 Book No. 06 Series of 2006
(PDI - April 23 , 30 & May 7, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SEAN JAMES M. VARGAS was extra-judicially settled with waiver as per Doc No. 41, Page No. 10, Book No 64, Series of 2006 of Notary Public Lopo M. Velasco of Makati City.
(PDI-April 30, May 7 & 14, 2006)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estates of the late spouses CARLOS M. de GUZMAN and CONSTANCIA ABEBUAG-de GUZMAN have been adjudicated by the heirs per Doc#24, Page#8, Book#43 Series of 2005 before Notary Public Jesus B. Bongon of Pasay City.
(PDI-Apr. 16, 23 & 30, 2006)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Certificate No. 1742 for one (1) properietary share of the VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, INC. issued to AMANDO D. DUMLAO, JR. was lost. If no contest received new certificate will be issued.
PDI - April 16, 23 & 30, 2006 .

Notice is hereby given that LANDBANK Bonds with Serial Nos. AR-0042612 and AR-0042577 under Palay, Inc. have been declared lost.
(PDI-April 23, 30, May 7 & 14, 2006)

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PMAP, UMAK to hold a labor relation course

THE HUMAN Resource Management Development Center (HRMDC) of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) partners with University of Makati in holding a certificate course in Compensation Management to equip the participants with the relevant knowledge, attitudes, and skills in the exercise of the human resource development functions.

PMAP and the faculty of University of Makati designed the Certificate in Labor Relations (CLR) course, which will run for eight Saturdays starting May 13 to July 1, 2006 at the Graduate School Building of University of Makati in West Rembo, Makati City.

The CCM course is part of PMAP's Diploma in Human Resource Management (DHRM) program. Completion of five PMAP certificate courses merits a post-graduate Diploma in Human Resource Management. The other certificate courses are Certificate in Human Resource Planning and Acquisition (formerly Recruitment-Selection Placement), Certificate in Organization Development, Certificate in Compensation Management, and Certificate in Human Resource Management (CHRD)

For other information, PMAP may be contacted thru telephone numbers 726-1532/81/88.

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NFA to use coco-blended diesel

THE NATIONAL Food Authority will be using Coconut Methyl Ester (CME) as a blend in petroleum diesel for its fleet of vehicle nationwide in support to the government's energy conservation measure.

In a memorandum issued by NFA assistant administrator for administration Concepto R. Irigo, who is also the agency's energy conservation officer, all NFA regional and provincial managers have been directed to implement Section 1 of Memorandum Circular No. 55 on the use of one percent (1%) CME by volume as a blend in petroleum diesel fuel for all NFA vehicles.

Memorandum Circular No. 55 issued by the Department of Energy (DoE) is directed to all departments, bureaus and instrumentalities of the government, including government-owned and controlled corporations.

The use of CME blended bio-fuels for NFA's vehicles, Irigo said, will boost the energy conservation measures the agency has been implementing for electricity and fuel consumption.

This is also in consonance to the government's effort to reduce its oil bills in the wake of the recent oil price increase in the world market, he said.

Irigo cited the need to sustain the efforts made by the agency to support the government's energy conservation thrusts. The NFA earlier received an 83 percent rating for its compliance with energy management measures particularly on electricity and fuel consumption.

During an on-the-spot inspection made by the DOLE, the NFA received a perfect score in fuel conservation, for designating an Energy Conservation Officer tasked with the over-all coordination and supervision of the agency's energy conservation measures and for issuing office orders mandating employees to comply with in-house energy conservation directives.

The energy management program espousing judicious use of energy resources and conservation efforts seeks to forestall the adverse effects of the crude price increases on the country's economy.

For more information on the NFA's energy conservation measures, the public may send their inquiries via mobile number 0917-6210927.

PSO – HNS BICOL CHAPTER HOSTS MIDYEAR CONFAB

The Philippine Society of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, Bicol Chapter hosted the Golden Midyear Convention with the theme: "Surgical and Medical Breakthrough", on April 27-29 at Casablanca Convention Center in Legazpi City. Attended by almost all ENT practitioners and residents nationwide, the scientific lectures opened to all interested medical practitioners. The three-day affair included scientific symposia, case presentations, sports activities and tours including the famous Whale shark interactive tour at Donsol, Sorsogon. The affair was a big achievement for the Bicol Chapter considering that it only has 15 members, one of the smallest and youngest chapters nationwide. The chapter was established in 2002 by 7 young ENT doctors who all went back to Bicol after their Residency training, with the idea of promoting the specialty to the Bicolanos and increasing community awareness to the practice of ENT specialists in the region. The group is also continuously conducting basic lectures and seminars for the medical practitioners with the objective of uplifting the quality of ENT care to the Bicolanos. Shown are the PSO-HNS officers, front row from left, Drs. Pio V. Nebres, treasurer, Felipe Federico O. Pio, Jr. auditor, Diosdado C. Uy, president, Abraham L. Gonzales, secretary; middle row from left – Drs. Conrado Pabico, PRO, Philip M. Roa, vice president, Marifee U. Reyes, Melvin G. Berin, Francis A. Dabu, members; back row from left – Drs. Neil Aldrine Penaflor, liaison officer, Edgardo del Rosario, and Eric Vinculado, members.

OBITUARIES

Our Dearly Beloved

SOLEDAD CADUA ALIX

August 9, 1920 - April 23, 2006

Peacefully joined our Creator on April 23, 2006 at the age of 85.

Her loving husband **Col. Sofronio R. Alix, PC** (Retired); children: **Benjamin & Carlota, Carolina & Arthur, Alfredo & Zenaida, Alexandra, Alicia & Eric, Alexander & Ma. Lourdes, Carlota & Rey, William & Celestine, Leilani & Andrew**, grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains will arrive from Toronto, Canada today, April 30, 2006 and will lie in state at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine, Doña Juana Avenue, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on the 3rd of May 2006 at the Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

Death Notice

RESTITUTO G. DAIT, SR.
of Tambuco, Goa, Camarines Sur
Died peacefully on April 25, 2006
at the age of 74.

His body lies in state at his residence in Tambuco, Goa, Camarines Sur. Interment will be on May 1 at 2:00 p.m. at Goa Catholic Cemetery.

JOFFRE CABALLERO MENDOZA

Born March 6, 1917 - Died on April 26, 2006

His brothers, sisters, their families and relatives request to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Funeral Mass will be on May 3, 2006 at 9 a.m. at St. Raphael Parish Church, Legazpi City, Albay.

Interment follows at Bicol Memorial Park.

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

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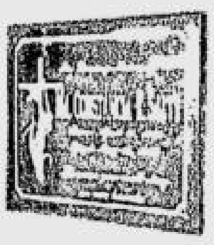

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THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT & PRAYERS
From wife Pia, children Eljo & Julia, Mommy, Daddy, sisters Bing & Chona

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

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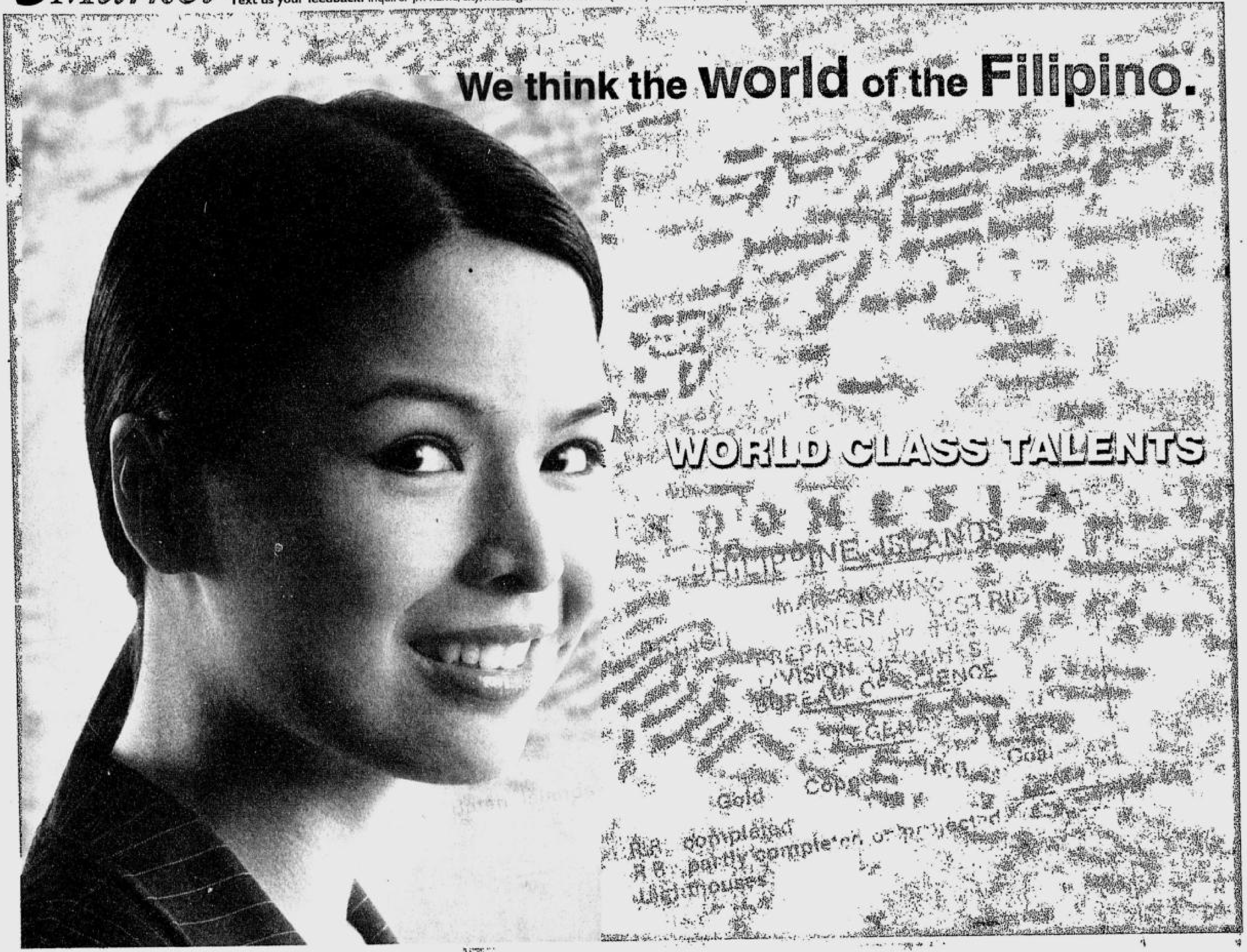
Where You Find The Best.

We think the world of the Filipino.



And the world thinks so, too.

University professor, broadcaster, international thespian, and call center professional. Titles that have built a diverse training team whose competence and experience ensure first-rate delivery of global training programs.

Filipino Competence.

We are looking for individuals with passion for learning and drive for success.

INBOUND CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES
(Commonwealth, Makati, Ortigas, or Alabang)
Give answers, close sales, and provide solutions to customers of top companies in telecommunications, finance, and entertainment.

OUTBOUND CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES
(Commonwealth, Makati, or Ortigas)
Gather feedback, do follow-ups, and facilitate collections among customers of leading organizations in research, finance, and roadside assistance.

TECHNICAL CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES
(Commonwealth, Makati, or Ortigas)
Troubleshoot technical problems, provide step by step instructions, and help customers of premier Internet service providers get back online.

INBOUND CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES - HEALTH CARE
(Makati)
Receive inbound calls to investigate caller inquiry through client systems, utilizing health care knowledge in responding to hospitals, physicians, and other medical providers. Candidates having medical background is an advantage but not a requirement.

OTHER JOB OPENINGS:

SITE DIRECTOR (Cebu)
Responsible for operational and program performance at the site by managing cross-functionally and leading all business units to meet established objectives.

RECRUITMENT ASSOCIATES (Makati and U-belt)

RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS (Makati)

RECRUITMENT OFFICER (U-belt)

TRANSACTION MONITORING COORDINATOR (Makati)

PROGRAM SPECIFIC TRAINERS (Makati)

HR SPECIALIST (Makati)

RECRUITMENT ASSOCIATE (Makati, Alabang and U-belt)

Technical Customer Care Representatives may call 6318230 or email their resumes to hro@teledevelopment.com

Visit any of our sites from Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm as a walk-in applicant and experience faster processing.

For U-Belt applicants, we accept walk-ins Mondays to Sundays, 10am to 7pm.

We invite you to join our walk-in activity at our Commonwealth Site from May 2-5, 2006 and experience ONE DAY PROCESSING.

Email your resume to philippinesrecruitment@convergys.com

Commonwealth Office
Diliman Commercial
Center, #46 Don
Mariano Marcos Avenue,
Diliman, Quezon City
(02)756 7088

Makati Office
Convergys One, 6796
Ayala Ave., cor Salcedo
St. Legaspi Village,
Makati City
(02)756-7188

Ortigas Office
24th Floor, Robinsons
Equitable Tower, #4
ADB Avenue-Ortigas
Center, Pasig City
(02)857-7678

Alabang Office
Block 44, Northgate
Cyberzone,
Muntinlupa City
(02)758-1688

U-Belt Office
Level 1, St. Thomas Square
1150 Espana Boulevard
cor. Padre Campa St.
Sampaloc, Manila
(02)735-2006

We offer an attractive compensation and benefits packages. Additional rewards and incentives are given to top performing agents. Applicants with resume, NBI Clearance, TIN and SSS number will be prioritized.

For information on how to apply, text CVG HELP to 2308 Globe/Touch Mobile or to 2951 Smart/AMP/Talk & Text.

CONVERGYS
Out*thinking* Out*doing*

ALLIED BANK

Offers exciting and rewarding career opportunities to competent individuals to fill in the following positions:

NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR

- Not more than 40 years old
- Graduate of BS Engineering & Communication/Computer Engineering or related course
- With experience in LAN & WAN installation & maintenance
- With at least 2 years experience as LAN administrator

SR. SYSTEMS ENGINEERS – MAINFRAME APPLICATIONS (SSE-MF)

- Business or computer-related course graduate
- With at least 5 years experience in programming (COBOL, CICS) and systems analysis preferably in a banking environment
- Must have a working knowledge on any of the following Systemetics banking modules: GN, IMPACS, Savings/Time, TS Teller Advance Loans, Customer Information (RM), FMS

SR. SYSTEMS ENGINEERS – WEB-BASED APPLICATIONS (SSE-WEB)

- Business or computer-related course graduate
- With 2 - 3 years PHP/SQL programming experience
- With experience working in database environments
- Graphic skills a plus

SR. SYSTEMS ENGINEERS – SPECIAL PROJECTS (SSE-SP)

- Business or computer-related course graduate
- With 2 - 3 years experience in systems analysis and design or assisting in project management

INFORMATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (ISA)

- Not more than 30 years old
- Computer Science, Electronics and Communications Engineering, Computer Engineering, or related course graduate
- With good oral and written communication skills
- Proficient in MS Office, Visio and other documentation tools
- Knowledgeable in firewall, IDS/IPS, Antivirus, Windows XP/2000/2003 or Linux

JR. COMPUTER OPERATORS (JCO)

- Not more than 30 years old
- Four (4) year course graduate
- Computer literate

JR. COMPUTER ENGINEERS (JCE)

- Not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of Electronics and Communication/Computer Engineering or related course
- Willing to travel within the Philippines

JR. SYSTEMS ENGINEERS – WEB-BASED APPLICATIONS (JSE-WEB)

- Not more than 30 years old
- Business or computer-related course graduate
- With knowledge of PHP, PostgreSQL/MySQL, HTML, JavaScript
- Graphic skills a plus

JR. SYSTEMS ENGINEERS – SPECIAL PROJECTS (JSE-SP) / JR. SYSTEMS PROGRAMMERS – TECHNICAL SUPPORT (JSP-TS)

- Not more than 30 years old
- Business or computer-related course graduate
- Familiarity with systems administration, programming, networking, operating system like Linux and Windows

JR. SYSTEMS ENGINEERS - MAINFRAME APPLICATIONS (JSE-MF)

- Not more than 30 years old
- Business or computer-related course graduate
- Must be familiar with COBOL programming

Interested applicants may come personally to submit their resumé, transcript of records and latest 2x2 picture on May 6, 2006 at the Penthouse, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Allied Bank Center, 6754 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

ALLIED BANK

Offers exciting and rewarding career opportunities to competent individuals to fill in the following positions:

LAWYERS

- Male/Female, not more than 35 years old
- Graduate of a reputable Law school
- With good scholastic standing
- With at least 1 year experience in handling litigation cases and corporate legal matters

ACCOUNT OFFICERS (For Metro Manila, Cebu & various provincial branches)

- Male/Female, 25 - 35 years old
- Business course preferably with MBA
- At least 2 yrs. work experience as Account Officer in Credit & Account Management
- Analytical and with excellent Marketing skills

BRANCH HEADS/OPERATIONS OFFICERS (For Metro Manila & various provincial branches)

- With a successful track record in banking specifically in the management and control of branch operations
- Dynamic, aggressive and results oriented
- With strong marketing and interpersonal skills

TRADER (Officer Level)

- Male/Female, not more than 35 years old
- Math, Physics or Economics graduate
- With 5 years trading experience in domestic/FCDU liquidity & portfolio management
- Must be a Treasury Licensed Professional

NEW ACCOUNTS CLERKS/TELLERS

- Business course graduate
- Not over 25 yrs. old
- With pleasing personality
- Assertive and customer service-oriented

JR. AUDITORS

- Male/Female, not over 28 yrs. old
- Must be a CPA
- Effective in oral and written communication
- Analytical, results-oriented, willing to travel

Interested applicants for OFFICERS should send their application thru e-mail at recruitment@alliedbank.com.ph. For STAFF positions, applicants may come personally to submit their resumé, transcript of records and latest 2x2 picture on MAY 2 & 3, 2006 at the Penthouse, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Allied Bank Center,
6754 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

(PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY)

IMMEDIATE HIRE
LAS PIÑAS
GARMENT FACTORY

- SECRETARY
- GRAPHIC DESIGNER
- MERCHANDISERS
- SEWING SUPERVISORS
- LINE LEADERS
- SEWERS
- MECHANIC
- PATTERN MAKER
- SUBCON COORDINATOR
- QUALITY CONTROLLERS

Qual: 3-5 years exp. in applied post. Office post English must & long hours. Work independently. SUBMIT Resumé with 2 photos, NBI, Sedula, Certificates to: CENTROWIN, Sport St. 4th Estate, P'que. TEL: 8296884

Conciliation, welfare services to mark Labor Day

THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Employment (DOLE) said that the celebration of Labor Day on May 1 this year will include legal and welfare services to needy workers and employers.

Labor and Employment Secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas said that legal and welfare assistance will be provided to workers and employers with labor related problems aside from thousands of local and overseas jobs that would be offered to jobseekers on May 1.

She said that conciliators and other personnel from various DOLE agencies will be on hand to assist clients with labor related problems along with various firms and recruitment agencies offering jobs at the Labor Day celebration which will be held at the Quezon City Hall Covered Walk on Elliptical Road, Quezon City from 8 am to 4 pm on May 1.

The holding of the event dubbed, *"Trabaho Muna! Labor Day Jobs and Livelihood Fair,"* shall be led by the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines in cooperation with the DOLE and the Quezon City government.

A fast growing IT company developing mobile 3G applications is in search of:

JAVA Developers

- Senior Developer; at least 3 years I.T. experience
  2-3 years actual development experience in Java/J2EE
- Junior Developer; at least 1 year I.T. experience, 1-2 years actual development experience in Java/J2EE
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

Requirements:

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Computer Science/Information Technology or equivalent
- Applicants must be willing to render extra hours if needed
- Proven hands-on experience in Java application development
- Good documentation and communication skills
- Excellent Analytical and problem-solving skills
- Ability to work in fast-paced and dynamic environment with aggressive schedules and status reporting requirements
- Experience includes analysis, designing, code checking, testing and debugging
- TCP/IP Socket network programming and multi threading
- Required skill(s): Hands-on Development experience using Java/J2EE, SQL and UML design

Please send your updated resumé by email to:

jobs@gibeon.ph

or via postal mail to the following address:

2307 The Orient Square, Emerald Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

A WELL-ESTABLISHED COMPANY ENGAGED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF CEMENT IS INVITING TOP CALIBER CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION OF:

ACCOUNTANTS

Preferably a CPA with extensive experience in Disbursement, General and Cost Accounting of an industrial enterprise. He/She must possess strong leadership and interpersonal skills, and with excellent communication skills. Must be willing to be posted overseas

CHINESE TRANSLATOR

Candidate must be proficient in both written English and Chinese. He/she will be responsible for the translation of various Company documents and transactions from English to Chinese and vice versa. College graduate with Bachelor's Degree are preferred.

Qualified applicants may send their resumé at e-mail address:
personnel2k5@yahoo.com
or at P.O. Box No 1477

JOB VACANCY

World Agroforestry Centre
TRANSFORMING LIVES AND LANDSCAPES

The World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) conducts agroforestry research throughout the developing world. ICRAF's ultimate purpose is to improve human welfare by reducing poverty, increasing cash income, improving food and nutritional security, and increasing environmental resilience through improved agroforestry systems. In Southeast Asia, ICRAF currently works in Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and China.

Capacity Building Specialist

ICRAF SEAsia is seeking a Capacity Building Specialist to our Regional Office in Bogor, Indonesia. This is a regional position for a national of a Southeast Asian country

Period: Three-year, expected to be filled by July/August, 2006

Duties:
Support the Southeast Asia Network for Agroforestry Education (SEANAFE). A regional network of 78 universities and colleges in five countries, SEANAFE aims to strengthening education in agroforestry and integrated natural resource management. The successful candidate will provide technical assistance and project management to SEANAFE and be responsible for ICRAF Southeast Asia's capacity development unit. Specific tasks include development of curricula and teaching materials, donor liaison and mobilization of project resources, conference organization, information and communication.

Qualifications:
The successful candidate holds a MSc or preferably a PhD degree in agriculture, forestry, agroforestry, rural development, education, agricultural economics or other relevant field. Other qualifications include at least 5 years experience as university lecturer in Southeast Asia and experience in technical aspects of Agroforestry or integrated natural resource management. The position requires project management expertise, excellent English writing ability, a strong capacity for networking and facilitation, and research skills for conducting impact analyses of education programs.

This is an immediately opening position. ICRAF believes that staff diversity promotes excellence, and strongly encourages applications from women.

Interested candidates should send their application letter and CV by e-mail to: j.prasetyo@cgiar.org

For more information about ICRAF, SEANAFE and a detailed description of the position and applicant requirements please see our website http://www.worldagroforestry.org/sea

Applications will be considered until 15 May 2006

NURSES

To pursue a master's degree in Nursing in New York, Florida or Alabama. Scholarships, assistantships, clinicals available. Classes start in September 2006.

For more information, hurry up and:
Visit : www.isepinc.net
Call: ISEP, Inc. – Tel. 201 368-8200
Email: info@isepinc.net

(ISEP, Inc. [International Student Exchange Program, Inc.] is based in Paramus, NJ. It is 100% Fil-Am owned.)

Pueblo Porla Playa

Bgy. Bantigue Pagbilao, Quezon

needs the following:

HEAD CHEF

- 2 Years experience as a Sous Chef
- Has background on French, Italian and Mediterranean cuisines
- Has knowledge on menu planning and costing
- Excellent supervisory and organizational skills
- Team player

CHEF DE PARTIE

- 2 Years experience as Chef de Partie
- Has background on Asian cuisine
- Team player

HOTEL & RESTAURANT MANAGER

- Male
- 21-30 years old
- Graduate of Hotel and Restaurant Management or any related course
- Experience in managing a hotel & restaurant an advantage

Interested applicants may bring their resumè to:

The HR Department
Cotta Realty & Development Corporation
St. Perigrine Street St. Jude Cotta, Lucena City
Tel. Nos. (042)373-6187/710-8910
or email to:
cottarealty@yahoo.com
puebloporlaplaya@yahoo.com

Strong results... global in scale.

headstrong

Strong Opinions. Strong Results

dti
DEPART OF
TRADE & TRY
NETSUITE
ONE SYSTEM. NO LI

We're looking for self motivated, goal-oriented, fast learners to join our global ranks.

Service Support Representative

- Bachelor's/College degree in Accountancy preferably CPA or experience with ERP, CRM or an accounting package such as Quickbooks, JDEdwards, Tally etc. Experience with ASP products is a plus.
- Experience in enterprise or Business Reporting (Crystal Reports, ODBC, etc.)
- At least 2-4 years overall experience in call center and/or IT industry/customer care operations.
- Willing to work nightshift.

Back Office Support

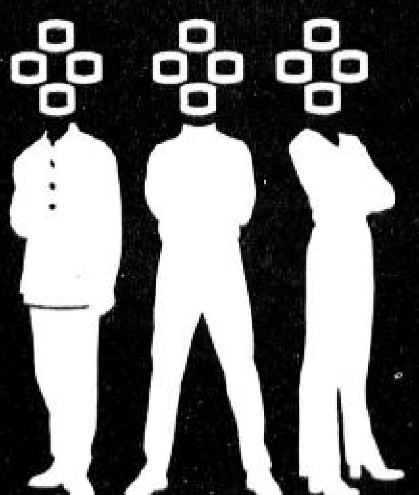
- Candidates must have a Bachelor's/College degree in Accountancy/Finance/Banking or equivalent. Preferably a CPA.
- Has deep understanding of Revenue cycle/concepts.
- Has experience in any Accounting Software (i.e. Quickbooks, SAP).
- Extensive experience in billing/revenue cycle, A/R cycle, payroll, fair amount of experience with ERP systems would be an advantage.

Implementors

- Bachelor's/College degree in any Computer, Engineering, Information Technology or Business related courses.
- Have implemented and used ERP equivalent accounting packages (e.g. SAP, Oracle or Great Plains. CRM/E-commerce product experience for 3-5 years.
- Experience in Business Processing, Analysis, Redesign and Re-Engineering.

Trainings Offered

The NetSuite product is a suite of Business Applications, which have earned numerous international awards for market leadership and innovation from various global publications. Successful candidates will undergo extensive training of the Netsuite Products that will cover full Back Office Accounting functions (General Ledger, AR/AP, Processing Inventory Management, etc.), Payroll, Customer Relationship Management (Webstore fully integrated with ERP). They can look forward to a career development in the evolving model of global financial operation and system.



Candidates must possess excellent communication and interpersonal skills and must be willing to travel.

Interested candidates can send their comprehensive resumes to:

Resource Management Unit
15/F Export Bank Plaza
Sen. Gil Puyat & Chino Roces Aves.
Makati City, Metro Manila

Or email to **recruitment@headstrong.com**
Or visit our website at **http://www.headstrong.com**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NETSUITE

NETSUITE HONORED WITH THE HOTTEST OVERSEAS TECH PROSPECT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Silicon Valley's Fastest Growing Software Company Receives Award at UK Technology Innovation and Growth Conference

ISM SELECTS NETSUITE AS TOP CRM SOFTWARE FOR 2006

Industry-Leading CRM Consulting Firm Includes NetSuite's On-Demand CRM, ERP and Ecommerce Suite in a Group of 15 Applications

INC. MAGAZINE RANKS NETSUITE FASTEST GROWING PRIVATE SOFTWARE COMPANY IN THE U.S

Inc. Magazine, the premier publication for small and medium-sized businesses, ranked NetSuite, Inc., as the fastest-growing private software company in the United States. With an annual growth rate of more than 1,900 percent, NetSuite ranked No.1 in the Software category and No. 27 overall in the Inc. 500 list of fastest-growing private companies. This is the second year that NetSuite is listed in the Inc. 500 list.

NetSuite Awarded Perfect Score By The CPA Technology Advisor

NetSuite Small Business received a perfect, 5-star rating in a recent detailed product review conducted by The CPA Technology Advisor

NetSuite, Inc. was founded in 1998 by Oracle CEO and chairman Larry Ellison and his leading technology guru and current NetSuite CTO Evan Goldberg to bring the power of integrated and low-cost application software to SMEs. From the introduction of NetSuite's first product in 1999 to the 2002 launch of NetSuite, the first mid-market integrated CRM/ERP/Ecommerce, the company has led the market in creating a new standard in business applications. Delivered as Web-based, on-demand applications, NetSuite's product offerings can reduce the cost of business applications by as much as 90 percent as there is no hardware to procure; no large, up-front licence fees; and no resources required to install, maintain, or upgrade the system. And finally, the products' easy-to-use "dashboard" user interface provides an intelligent, role-specific portal view of the application. With more than 7,500 companies using the company's products, NetSuite is the largest provider of online business applications in the world.

BAHAGINAN

Be a Kabahagi! Fight Global Poverty and Disadvantage!

VSO Bahaginan is a national member agency of the **Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Federation**, an international development organization that works through, and with, volunteers, sending them in nearly 40 countries. More than 200 Filipinos have been deployed, with more than a hundred now serving as volunteers in some of the poorest countries in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. VSO Bahaginan also promotes and supports national volunteering and other volunteering development initiatives in the Philippines and in Asia and the Pacific.

VSO Bahaginan is currently looking for the following staff positions:

1. PROGRAMME SUPPORT OFFICER, VOLUNTEERING DEVELOPMENT

(Job Code: VDSupOff)

Key Responsibilities

1. **Youth Volunteering Programmes**
   - Promote the development of a Youth Volunteer Exchange programme within SEA and build partnerships with different organizations and donors in the Philippines and SEA.
2. **Employee Volunteering Programme (EVOLVE)**
   - Assist the Programme Manager in mobilizing the business sector to engage in Employee Volunteering
   - Conduct needs assessment of employers and host communities and prepare working policies, systems and procedures suitable to partners and beneficiary communities
   - Assist the Programme Manager in training and advisory service, community matching, monitoring and evaluation, and advocacy activities
3. **Partnership Building**
   - Assist in OD assessments of National Volunteering (NV) partners in coordination with Programme Manager and Training Adviser
   - Handle finance and administrative requirements related to the implementation of various learning channels for NV partners (i.e. such as study tours, exchanges and fellowships) and help manage conferences and fora to raise the level of discussion on youth and employee volunteering
   - Assist the Partnership Development and Fund Raising Officer in resource mobilization efforts as necessary
4. **Training Support**
   - In collaboration with the Training Adviser, prepare a learning agenda and customize training materials for Youth and Employee Volunteering partners
   - Provide logistical support to the Training Adviser on projects related to Youth and Employee Volunteering

Essential Qualifications:

- Minimum 3 years relevant work experience in partnership building involving the youth and business sector, preferably with at least 1 year working with volunteers or voluntary sector
- At least 2 years experience in all phases of the training cycle
- At least 2 years exposure in resource mobilization (i.e. proposal making, negotiation, events management)
- Possess a good understanding of organizational development (analysis, OD interventions, change management)
- Knowledge and skill in project development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation (PDIME)
- Excellent oral and written communication skills and very good command of English
- Computer-literate, including power point presentation skills

2. VOLUNTEER ASSESSMENT & RESETTLEMENT OFFICER, INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER SENDING PROGRAMME

(Job Code: VARO)

Key Responsibilities

1. **Recruitment**
   - Develop, coordinate and handle volunteer enquiry services as well as monitor and analyse recruitment and selection trends
   - Support promotion and recruitment activities
2. **Assessment**
   - Coordinate and implement volunteer assessment activities and events, ensuring that VSO international baselines and standards for volunteer selection are met
   - Select, manage, develop good relations with regular pool of volunteer-selectors, and design continuous training for selectors
   - Represent Bahaginan in the International Assessment Team and participate in strategy formulation and knowledge management of the Team
3. **Resettlement**
   - Be the main contact person of Bahaginan to returning volunteers and provide support and information to them
   - Re-establish, build, sustain, and maintain mutually supportive relationships between and among returned volunteers and VSO
   - Coordinate and undertake regular and special events as well as manage returned volunteer database
   - Represent Bahaginan in the International Returned Volunteers Team and participate in strategy formulation of the Team

Essential Qualifications:

- Minimum 3 years work experience in human resource management including recruitment, selection, benefits administration, training; experience in working with voluntary sector is an advantage
- Minimum 2 years experience in project management, including planning, monitoring & evaluation, organising, staff supervision, implementation and budgeting in the development sector; experience in working with the voluntary sector is an advantage
- Excellent oral and written communication skills and very good command of English
- Above average skills in word processing, spreadsheet and database computer applications
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Ability to travel and work long hours occasionally

Deadline for submission of application is on May 14, 2006. The VARO post preferably starts on July 1, 2006 and the VDSupOff post on June 1, 2006.

For a full description of these posts, please visit www.vsobahaginan.org.ph. CVs and resumes will not be accepted as applications to these posts. Interested applicants must accomplish the VSO Staff Application Form, which can be downloaded at the VSO Bahaginan website. All applicants should also write an explanatory note (no longer than two paragraphs totaling to 6-8 sentences) for each of the above essential qualifications, explaining why you believe you possess the qualities required for the post. Failure to send explanatory notes will disqualify the applicant.

Please send accomplished VSO Staff Application Form with the specific Job Code to: The Director at bahaginan@vsoint.org

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified. VSO Bahaginan is an equal opportunity employer.

Aviation Partnership (Phils.) Corporation, or A+

Is a joint venture between Cebu Pacific and the Singapore Airlines Engineering Company. We are a world-class Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility with an aggressive program for business growth, ensuring a rewarding career and long-term employability for our teammates.

Please take a few moments to answer these questions:

- Are you an RP-ATO licensed A&P or Avionics mechanic with rating and experience in jet engine powered aircraft?
- Have you been working abroad too long, would like to work in the Philippines, and spend more time with your family?
- Are you excited with the prospect of working with a start-up company with world-class credentials and an aggressive expansion plan?
- Are you looking for a working environment that recognizes hard work, encourages participation and teamwork, and rewards performance and contribution?
- Have you been thinking of sharing your experience with and helping develop young and aspiring mechanics?

If you are, we invite you to send your comprehensive resumes to:

Aviation Partnership (Phils.) Corporation
Airline Operations Center,
8006 Domestic Road.,Pasay City 1301
or-email to: dianne.delostrinos@aplus.com.ph

Associate Accounting Analyst (2 positions)

Responsibilities

The positions assist in establishing, maintaining, facilitating and coordinating the implementation of the **integrated internal control framework and related risk assessment** in ADB, and prepare the required management reports and other necessary reports as the basis for Management assertion and audit attestation; provide technical assistance and support to other departments and other divisions/sections within the Controller's Department (CTL); facilitate the recording and monitoring of necessary documentation and tasks using appropriate tools; and ensure that the work area objectives are accomplished timely and effectively. The positions report directly to the Control Officer of the Section in charge of Financial Systems and Control functions under the supervision of the Financial Control Specialist.

For more details about the position, please see http://www.adb.org/Employment/Local/default.asp

Reporting Arrangement

The positions report to the Financial Control Specialist through the Control Officer, Financial Systems and Control Section (CTAC-FSC), CTL.

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level.
- a Bachelor degree in Computer Science or Business Administration major in Accounting; a Certified Public Accountant designation with background and experience in system analysis.
- at least 5 years experience in auditing or accounting with a minimum of three years in a supervisory capacity with one of the big 4 accounting firms, preferably in a highly computerized environment with multi-products and experience.
- good understanding of internal control and business processes concepts to facilitate the evaluation of control risk assessment and internal control.
- proven supervisory and interpersonal skills with ability to provide feedback to subordinates.
- proficiency and experience with specialized software and tools commonly used by international organizations and corporations for risk management and internal control evaluation such as Horizon or equivalent.
- proficiency with relevant experience in the interpretation and applications of International and American Generally Accepted Accounting Principles; ability to prepare staff instructions and guidelines and design of ad hoc reports.
- excellent oral and written skills in English.
- analytical and systematic skills, with strong numerical ability, attention to details, and ability to plan and coordinate schedules in order to meet deadlines.
- good knowledge of accounting systems for Banking industry.

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its national officers locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-AS06-057(4)-CTAC-FSC** and **job title** on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by **15 May 2006.**

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

Asian Development Bank ADB

www.adb.org

Senior Cofinancing Officer

Responsibilities

The position is responsible for participating in structuring, executing and syndicating loan and project finance transactions requiring commercial cofinancing and in managing syndicated loans, and in preparing periodic profile reports, highlighting key features of cofinancing partnerships/syndicated arrangements.

For more details about the position, please see http://www.adb.org/Employment/Local/default.asp

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to the Director Office of Cofinancing Operations (OCO).

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level.
- Master's degree in Business Administration or related fields, or CFA.
- 10 years of relevant professional work experience, with at least 5 years of experience at a senior level in a private sector lending agency.
- at least 5 years of experience originating, executing, and syndicating loans for infrastructure and/or financial sector projects.
- strong analytical, credit evaluation, risk mitigation, and report preparation skills.
- ability to set priorities for assigned tasks.

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its national officers locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-NO06-091(4)-OCO and job title** on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by **15 May 2006.**

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

Asian Development Bank ADB

www.adb.org

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

INTERIOR DESIGN ASSOCIATE

- BS Interior Design or BFA Major in Interior Design Graduate
- 1 year work experience would be an advantage
- Male/Female, not more than 25 years old
- Kowledge in CAD would be an advantage

You may mail or submit your resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 picture to:

GRACE S. REYES DESIGNS, INC.
430 Mayon St., Sta. Mesa Heights, Q.C.
or email at grdi@pldtdsl.net

A well established Agribusiness Equipment company has immediate opening for:

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

- Accounting graduate with initiative
- With 1-2 years work experience, below 30 years old
- Computer literate
- Good opportunity with a very stable company

Please send your Resumé and Transcript of Records to:
M.C.P.O. Box 2258 Makati City 1262

AUDITOR

Requirements:

- Graduate of BS Accountancy
- Preferably a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or Certified Internal Auditor (CIA)
- Male, Single
- Analytical, energetic and highly proficient in oral and written communication
- Must be willing to perform fieldwork provincial assignments
- Computer literate
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

Interested applicants may submit their application online or walk in at Boher Emission Test Center Co. 526 Nueve de Pebrero St., Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City

Email: hrd_emission@yahoo.com

ALSTAR CHEMIE SALES (PHILS.), an exclusive pharma distributor of DBL-Mayne Pharma has an urgent need for:

TERRITORY REPRESENTATIVES

To promote and sell pharmaceutical lines to key target government and private hospitals and drugstores nationwide.

** Male or female, highly personable and with excellent communication and interpersonal skills; graduate of a 4-year college course; and at least 2 years relevant experience in the same position; salary plus incentives

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANT

To handle the overall accounting function of the company

** Accounting graduate, female, at least 3 years relevant experience in accounting. Knowledge in operating any Accounting software is a must.

Applicants are requested to send their resumé, transcript & 2x2 picture
34 P. Banzon St., Phase 1, BF Homes, Parañaque City Tel. No. 770-8141

NOW HIRING

SALES ASSOCIATES

- Male, at least 2nd year college level with background in selling
- Must have pleasing personality
- With good communication skills
- Willing to undergo training

For interested applicants, please e-mail your resumé with 2x2 photo at kglacson@skynet.net or you can send it to

Suite 205 Xavierville Royale Condominium, #61 Xavierville Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, 1108

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRE

VB Programmers with Oracle

Must be College Graduate with at least 2 years working experience
Proficient in English

Send resumé to:
BachNY@gmail.com
Put **Manila** in subject line

MODUTECH OFFICE FURNITURES

AUTOCADD OPERATOR
- Preferably Architecture graduate
- Male or female, with or without exp.

ACCOUNTING CLERK
- Preferably accounting graduate
- With or without experience

SALES REPRESENTATIVE
- Any 4 year course graduate

Pls send your resumé with 2x2 picture to Room 822 Cityland Herrera Tower, Valero St., cor Rufino Ave., Salcedo Village, Makati City
or send to email mmodutech2003@yahoo.com

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One of the following opportunities could be your ticket to the fast lane:

External Audit Managers

- Current/Previous experience as a manager, rendering external audit services to multinational corporations
- CPA, with very good communication, interpersonal, supervisory and project management skills

External Audit Senior Associates

- Current/Previous experience as a senior associate/supervisor, rendering external audit services to multinational corporations
- CPA, with very good communication, interpersonal, supervisory and project management skills

Technical Standards and Risk Management Manager

- Current/Previous experience as a manager, rendering external audit services to multinational corporations and/or
- Current/Previous experience rendering quality control, technical standards and /or risk management services in a professional services firm
- CPA, with very good communication, interpersonal, supervisory and project management skills

Internal Audit Managers

- Current/Previous experience rendering external or internal audit services to multinational corporations
- CPA, preferably a Certified Internal Auditor or MBA degree holder
- Industry knowledge in banking or insurance is a plus
- Very good communication, interpersonal, supervisory and project management skills

Internal Audit Senior Associates

- Current/Previous experience rendering external or internal audit services to multinational corporations
- CPA /Certified Internal Auditor/MBA degree holder preferred
- Non-CPAs with internal audit background may also apply
- Very good communication, interpersonal, supervisory and project management skills

Tax Consultants

- CPA or CPA Lawyer, preferably not more than 30 years old
- Preferably with experience in rendering financial audit or tax services work for multinational corporations
- With above average scholastic standing and excellent communication skills
- Creative, driven, highly responsible and analytical

Business Development Associate

- College graduate with very good communication skills
- Aggressive in seeking business development opportunities
- Preferably with marketing background
- Persevering, persistent and well-motivated

Human Resources Associate

- College graduate, preferably with a degree in BS/BA Psychology or Behavioral Science
- Preferably with experience in marketing and communications, recruitment, HR information systems and/or compensation and benefits
- Very good communication skills

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Isla Lipana & Co./PricewaterhouseCoopers
29/F, Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, 1226 Makati City, Philippines
Telephone +63 (2) 845 2728 • Facsimile +63 (2) 845 2806
pam.m.gregorio@ph.pwc.com • michelle.m.argarin@ph.pwc.com

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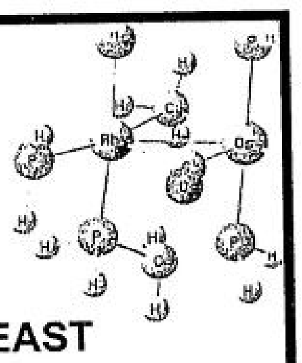

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Mathematics/Statistics
Philosophy/Humanities

ONLY Master's or Doctorate degree holders from reputable universities will be considered.
Please bring Original and Photocopies of Diploma and Transcript of Records.

For further inquiries, applicants may contact the CAS Manila Dean's Office at telephone nos.: 735-8539 or 735-5471 loc. 368 or visit us at www.ue.edu.ph

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World Food Programme | Programa Mundial de Alimentos | Programme Alimentaire Mondial | برنامج الأغذية العالمي

United Nations World Food Programme. Philippines

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT No.2006/08
Date of Issue 30 April 2006

Deadline for application: 10 May 2006

World Food Programme (WFP), the food aid organization of the United Nations is seeking applications from the qualified Filipino nationals who has vast logistics experience in shipping, clearing, transport and warehouse management for the following positions for its office in Davao, Cotabato and Iligan

1. **National Logistics Officer** – 1
2. **Logistics Assistant (Transport)** – 2
3. **Logistics Assistant** – 1
4. **Logistics Clerk (Customs Clearance)** – 1
5. **Warehouse Manager** – 2
6. **Store Keeper** – 2
7. **Tally Clerk** – 2
8. **LTSH Assistant (Financial Tracking)** – 1
9. **LTSH Clerk (Financial Tracking)** – 1
10. **CTS Manager/Data Analyst** – 1
11. **CTS Data Clerk** – 1

The interested candidates can request the Terms of Reference for the positions from: marissa.ragragio@wfp.org, anastacia.regoyo@wfp.org, aveen.acuna-gulo@wfp.org, norlaynie.alar@wfp.org.

Applications along with a detailed CV should be addressed to

UN World Food Programme, Citi Bank Tower, GF 8741 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City 1226
UN World Food Programme, No 631, Aguho St, Juna Subd. Matina Davao City
UN World Food Programme, No.3, Rufo Manara Street, Rosary Heights, Cotabato City

Women candidates are encouraged to apply. Equally qualified female candidates will be given preference.
Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

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ACCOUNT OFFICERS
- Must have at least 2 years related experience in account solicitation of salary, auto or housing loans
- Must have very good communication skills
- Preferably graduates of any business-related course
- Preferably not more than 35 years old

AUTO APPRAISERS
- Must have related experience in auto appraisal – local & imported cars
- Must be familiar with various areas in Metro Manila
- Must know how to drive a motor cycle, has license and willing to do field work
- Must have very good oral & written communication skills
- Preferably with knowledge in basic real estate appraisal
- Preferably graduates of any business related course
- Preferably not more than 28 years old

BRANCH MANAGERS
- Will be responsible for attaining the branch's target financial volume through deepening of existing accounts and acquisitions
- Will also be in charge of planning & implementing sales & service strategies of the branch
- Must have at least 3 years related banking experience in aggressive account generation
- Preferably not more than 42 years old

CREDIT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
- Must have extensive background in financial analysis, credit evaluation and approval, loan processing, documentation and collection
- Must have experience in handling consumer loans like auto, housing and salary loans
- Must have very good report preparation and presentation skills
- Preferably graduates of any business related course
- Preferably not more than 35 years old

FIELD CREDIT INVESTIGATORS
- Must have related experience in credit investigation, appraisal and collection
- Must know how to drive a motor cycle, has license and willing to do field work
- Must have very good oral & written communication skills
- Preferably graduates of any business related course
- Preferably not more than 28 years old

OTHER POSITIONS AVAILABLE:
Investment Banker, Loan Bookkeeper, Roving Tellers, Recruitment Staff, Signature Verifiers

WE WILL ONLY RESPOND TO QUALIFIED APPLICANTS

METHODS OFFICER
- Will formulate, enhance and issue policies and procedures related to banking operations, products and services
- Will conduct User Acceptance Testing (UAT) to new and enhanced programs developed by IMD and outside vendors
- Must have extensive experience in bank operations, systems and controls
- Must have working knowledge of Central Bank and other regulatory body's policies and guidelines
- Must have very good oral and written communication skills
- Preferably graduates of Banking & Finance, Economics, Management or Accounting
- Preferably not more than 35 years old
- **On Project Basis**

NEW ACCOUNTS CLERKS/TELLERS
- Must have very good communication skills
- Must be college graduates
- Must have very good communication skills
- Preferably with relevant experience in bank operations, cash handling and customer service
- Preferably not more than 25 years old
- **Fresh graduates are welcome to apply**

PROGRAMMER/ANALYSTS
- Must have at least 2 years of progressive responsible experience in the PC-based system applications design, analysis, development and maintenance work with relevant exposure to banking operations
- Must be knowledgeable in various programming languages specially Visual Studio.Net, ASP.Net and Java
- Must be well-versed in any web and object-oriented development tool
- Must be graduates of any IT-related courses
- Preferably not more than 35 years old

ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING DEPARTMENT HEAD
- Responsible for heading the over all day to day activities of the department; Will be in charge of planning and implementing strategies in attaining the targets of the department
- Must have an in-depth knowledge in career and performance management, job evaluation, training and organization development.
- Must have basic knowledge in banking and business processes
- Must have at least 5 years experience in the same capacity and preferably in a banking industry
- Preferably not more than 40 years old

Apply Now!

Send your application letter, resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 photo on or before May 15, 2006.

Position Applied for: ____________________
THE RECRUITMENT OFFICER
RCBC Savings Bank – HR Administration Department
1806B West Tower, Tektite Bldg., Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

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URGENTLY NEEDED BY A LARGE CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

PARK ADMINISTRATOR
- Will act as the Over-all Manager covering all park premises, tenants and locators, including day-to-day activities and operations.
- Candidate must be Male, 35-45 years old; preferable Engineering graduate or its equivalent.
- He must have at least 5 years hands-on experience as Park Manager or Administrator of a memorial park, industrial or technology park or a big first-class subdivision.
- He must have been exposed to grounds keeping and maintenance, including garbage collection, formulation & implementation of park rules and regulations, dormitory or staff house facilities, security, shuttle bus service, community relations and other park operations.

HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICER
- Male or Female, 30-38 years old; graduate of any Behavioral or Social Science course or its equivalent.
- Candidate must have at least 3 years hands-on H.R. experience in a large construction and development company.
- Candidate must have sufficient knowledge on recruitment & training (construction industry), benefits administration, community relations, employee discipline and others.

RECRUITMENT & TRAINING STAFF
- Male or Female, 25-32 years old; graduate of B.S. Psychology.
- Candidate must have excellent exposure on recruitment and training gained from a large construction and development firm. With adequate knowledge on Psychological Testing and Evaluation.
- With good interpersonal and communication skills.

FOR INTERESTED & QUALIFIED APPLICANTS, PLS. SEND COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ TO:

tink.shelley@gmail.google.com

*** We will reply only to shortlisted candidates.**

European International School

Due to the expansion and growth of its programmes, the European International School is currently recruiting the following educators for the next school year (2006/07), which will begin this September.

The European IB Section is looking for:

Biology/Chemistry Teacher (part-time)
The successful candidate will teach Biology and Chemistry at Higher and Standard Levels for the graduating IB class. S/he will be responsible for leading classes of about 5 students toward the best possible IB grades. This involves laboratory experiments and interactive teaching of the curriculum.

Economics Teacher (part-time)
The successful candidate will teach Economics at the Higher Level. S/he will be responsible to lead classes of 3 to 7 students toward the best possible IB grades. This involves interactive teaching of the curriculum.

Applicants must at least have a Bachelor's degree in Science or Economics as well teaching experience at the University/College level. IB experience is preferable but not required.

For its new English section, the German School Manila is looking for:

High School Teachers (2 part-time positions)
- Science & Mathematics
- Humanities & Ethics

Applicants must be native English-speakers or equivalent with an extensive experience and qualification in their field as well as exposure in international education (preferably with MYP experience)

Pre-school/Kindergarten Teacher (part-time)
Applicants must be native English-speakers or equivalent with a proven record in pre-school education, preferably in an international environment.

Interested applicants can send their CV and cover letter by email to: application@eis-manila.org
Deadline for submission of applications: 21 May 2006.
Only short-listed candidates will be contacted and invited for an interview.
For more details about the European International School, log on to www.eis-manila.org.

ProSearch
Incorporated

We urgently need the following positions :

General Office positions
- HR Professionals
- Administrative Personnel
- Office Clerks
- On The Job Trainees

Hospitality positions
- Front Office Staffs
- F&B Staffs
- Chefs
- Stewards (rooms, kitchen and laundry)

Medical personnel
- Nurses
- Medical Technologists
- Clinic Heads
- Nursing aids
- Radiological Technicians
- Pharmacists
- Pharmacy Assistants
- Stockroom Custodians/Warehousemen
- Caregivers

Accounting personnel
- Certified Public Accountant
- Accounting Assistants
- Bookkeepers

Sales positions
- Sales Staffs
- Promo Girls
- Merchandisers
- Sales Executives
- Medical Representatives
- Management Trainees (from Fast food chains)

POSITIONS FOR MANPOWER POOLING

Skilled Workers
- Carpenters
- Welders
- Plumbers
- Machine Operators
- Factory Workers

IT personnel
- Encoders
- Software programmers
- Web Designer

Interested applicants are invited to submit their resumé on-line at admin.prosearch@gmail.com or visit us at ProSearch office, Unit 802 Centerpoint Bldg., Garnet Road cor. J. Vargas Ave Ortigas center, Pasig. For more info pls. call 631-9040

The Girl Scouts of the Philippines, National Headquarters is in need of an

INTERNAL AUDITOR

Candidate must possess the following qualifications:
1. Must be a Certified Public Accountant
2. With at least two years experience as Internal Auditor or in the field of audit
3. Fluent in oral and written communications
4. Computer literate
5. Between 30-40 years old

Please mail your application letter and resume with recent 2x2 picture to:

Asst. National Executive Director
Girl Scouts of the Philippines
901 Padre Faura Street
Ermita, Manila

WANTED

AIRCON TECH / INSTALLER
- Vocational Graduate
- Expert in Split and Packaged Type A/C
- Hardworking, Honest & Reliable

AUTO AIRCON MECHANIC
- Familiar with all types of auto aircon
- We offer profit sharing
- Honest & hardworking

ACCOUNTANT
Single, Female, with at least two years experience

Please send your resumé & picture to:

Carrier **GRAND AIRCON**
1650 A. Francisco St., San Andres
Bukid, Manila
Tel. No. 561-2078 / 562-2703

BRIGHT STAR *Placement Corporation*
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ALDEN MANAGEMENT SERVICES
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(75)	COMPETENT NURSES
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(23)	REHABILITATION AND HEALTH CARE CENTER
(4)	ALZHEIMER'S RESIDENTIAL CENTER
(2)	ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITIES
(4)	SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES

QUALIFICATION:
- Nurses must passed the CGFNS and IELTS or TOEFL and TSE
- Pleasing personality and with at least 2 years hospital experience

BENEFITS:
$ 1,500.00 Relocation Fee
Reimbursement of the traveling expenses
Medical and Dental Insurance
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Sick Pay
$ 21 per hour for RN

Interested applicants must submit their RESUMÉ with 2x2 Colored Pictures Interview with Regional Director of the ALDEN MANAGEMENT will be held on MAY 8 to 12, 2006.

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Jones Lang LaSalle is the world's leading real estate services and Investment management firm with over 100 offices worldwide. Our rapidly expanding office in the Philippines now seeks application for the following positions:

Facilities/Office Manager
- Between 26-35 years old
- At least 3 years managerial experience in Facilities/Office Management/Administration

Assistant Facilities/Office Manager
- Preferably licensed Engineer.
- Between 26-35 years old.
- At least 3 years supervisory work experience in managing critical systems

Both must have:
- Excellent people skills
- Experience with tendering / procurement and service improvement initiatives
- Computer literate
- Experience with continuous improvement initiatives
- Experience with client reporting and preparation of reports
- Ability to multi-task to meet deadlines

Please send your resumé to:

JONES LANG LASALLE.

Facilities Management Department
8F Tower 2, The Enterprise Center
6766 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
1200 Philippines
email: aileen.fernando@ap.jll.com

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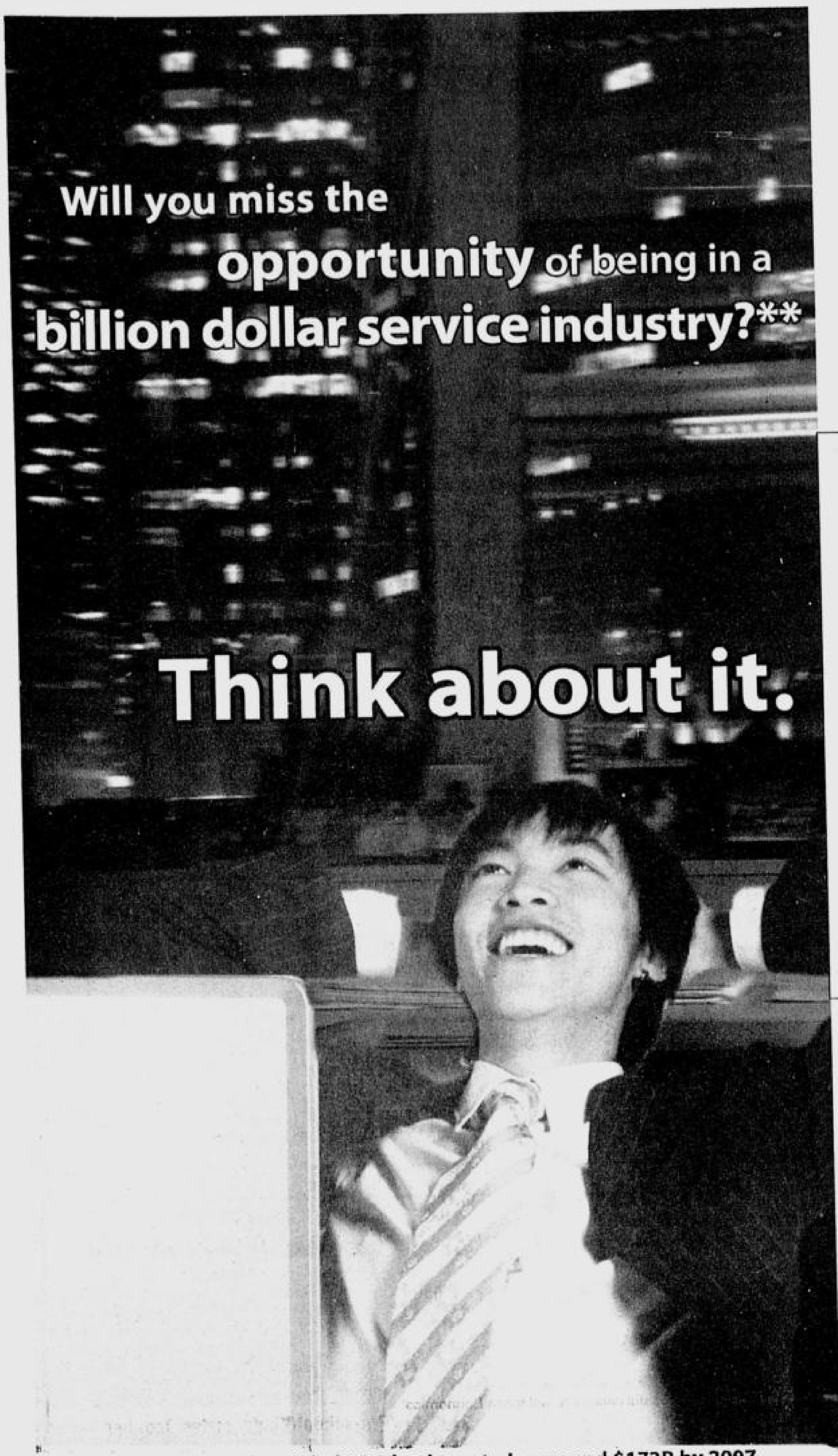
Willing to work beyond office hours
Hardworking

Civil Engineer
25 – 35 years old – Male / Female
Proficiency in Auto CAD and
Land Development Design

Senior Structural Engineer
27 – 35 years old – Male/Female
Knowledge in Auto CAD / STAAD

Architect
Knowledge in Auto – CAD
20 – 30 years old – Male/Female

Interested Applicant may send Your Resumé to:
rmdc_vca@globelines.com.ph
rmdoronila@yahoo.com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Workforce Analysts
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Payroll Manager
Senior Accounting Officer
Data Analyst
Finance Assistant

SALES
Business Development Manager
Client Services Manager

LEGAL
Senior Attorney
Legal Assistant

TRAINING
Training Manager, Leadership Development
University Linkages Program Liaison
Communication Trainers (Manila & Cebu)
Transcription Trainer
Travel Trainer
Real Estate Trainer
Financial Services Trainer
Technical Trainer (Manila & Cebu)
Course Developer

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Telecommunications Manager (Avaya)
Sr. Database Analyst (MS SQL)
Software Development Manager
Software Developer (C#, ASP.net, VB.net)
Production Support Director
Consulting Manager
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PeopleSupport Cebu
e-Office 1, AsiaTown IT Park
Monday to Saturday
9:00am to 5:00pm
HR Hotline: (032) 234-8222

Davao City
A-301 Plaza de Luisa
140 Ramon Magsaysay Ave.
Monday to Friday
9:00am to 6:00pm
HR Hotline: (82) 227-9301

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UNITED LABORATORIES, INC.

the country's leading pharmaceutical company is looking for

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES (PSRs)
for one of its subsidiaries
Medichem Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Candidates should:
* Be 25 years old and below
* Be at least 5'2" for female and 5'5" for male
* Be a graduate of a four-year course
* Have excellent written and oral communication skills
* Have pleasing personality
* Have high customer orientation
* Be computer proficient
* Be willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines (preferably Manila, Pangasinan, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro and Butuan City)

Interested applicants are requested to send their comprehensive resume with 2x2 ID picture and transcript of records to:

The Recruitment Team
HR Services Department
Organization Development Division
2/F United Laboratories Building
66 United Street Mandaluyong City
Code: Medichem Pharmaceuticals

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Assistant Division Merchandise Manager

Duties & Responsibilities:
- Financial planning and management
- Assortment planning
- Business planning
- Develop and lead Merchandising Team

Qualifications:
- Male or Female, over 30 years old
- Bachelor's Degree in related field
- 5 years experience in Retail Business
- Excellent Financial Planning and Management skills
- Possess analytical skills
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills

Merchandise Manager

Duties & Responsibilities:
- Develop and plan Merchandise Assortments
- Drive Sales and Gross Margin
- Manage Monthly OTB (Open-to-Buy)
- Manage and develop suppliers
- Develop Advertising and Sales Promotion Plans
- Implement and Monitor Visual Merchandising Standards

Qualifications:
- Male or Female, not over 35 years old
- Bachelor's Degree in related field
- 4-5 years Retail Merchandising, Store Operations or Brand Management experience
- Experience in planning, forecasting, and allocation
- Computer literate

Interested parties may apply personally from Monday to Friday,
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM to:

SM Corporate Office
[illegible]
[illegible]

Visit our website [illegible]
E-mail [illegible]

[illegible]

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The Leader in Franchise Development. Worldwide.
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Top Professionals Needed for Nationwide Expansion!

OPERATIONS CONSULTANTS

Shall handle the operational aspect of franchise development, including system/process analysis, standardization, streamlining & documentation. Experience in developing, managing or documenting the operations of a chainstore. At least 25 years old, Business or Engineering graduate of a top school. Strong proficiency in use of business software as tool for development. Strong communication, presentation and analytical skills.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Must be at least 30 years old; graduate of Management, Accounting or Business. Must have excellent written and interpersonal communication skills, computer proficiency, strong organizational, analytical and coordination skills. Previous experience as Executive Assistant an advantage. Must be detailed, organized and thorough. Personable and pleasant..

MARKETING MANAGER

Shall develop marketing plans and strategies for our clients. Background in planning and implementing marketing programs. At least 28 years old; graduate of Marketing, Business or Mass Communications. Good command of English, articulate, aggressive, pleasant with great personality. Strong presentation and communication skills required.

HIRING FOR OUR CLIENTS:
FRANCHISE MANAGERS, TRAINING MANAGERS, ACCOUNTANTS

Send resume with colored photo to:
INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CORP. **(iFranchiseCorp)**
Unit 2809 Jollibee Plaza, F. Ortigas Road (Emerald Avenue)
Ortigas Center, Pasig City; Email: fcph888@yahoo.com

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*PLANT INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER **

- ☐ 25-35 years old; Graduate of Industrial Engineering
- ☐ Must have *at least 3-5 years* work experience in a manufacturing company.
- ☐ Can do Time & Motion study and other I.E. works in a shop floor

*QUALITY SYSTEMS ENGINEER **

- ☐ Female; 24-26 years old
- ☐ Graduate of any Engineering course
- ☐ MUST have experience in ISO/TS & QMS implementation

*MECHANICAL/MACHINE DESIGNERS * DESIGN TRAINEES/DRAFTSMEN **

- ☐ Male, 25-30 years old;
- ☐ BS Mechanical Engineering Graduate.
- ☐ MUST be experienced in Mechanical/Machine Design using AutoCAD.
- ☐ Knowledgeable in Drafting.

*SCM ANALYSTS/PLANNER**

- ☐ Industrial Engineering graduate
- ☐ MUST have good exposure on Materials Planning and Supply Chain

UTILITIES SUPERVISOR / EQUIPMENT ENGINEER / BUILDING ENGINEER

- ☐ Male, 21-30 years old.
- ☐ Licensed Mechanical or Electrical Engineer.
- ☐ Must be experienced in equipment (HVAC) maintenance & preventive maintenance scheduling.
- ☐ Must be willing to work on night shift and weekend.

ACCOUNTANTS/AUDITORS

- ☐ Male or Female, 21-35 years old. CPA required.
- ☐ Preferably with at least 2 years work experience in a manufacturing set-up or auditing firm.

**** POSITIONS based in Sta. Maria, Bulacan. Previous Applicants need not apply.***

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO APPLY PERSONALLY WITH RESUMÉ AND T.O.R. TO:

THE CORPORATE RECRUITMENT SECTION (BATTERY GROUP),
RAMCAR CENTER, 80 ROCES AVENUE, QUEZON CITY

Or Email: bcsarmiento@motolite.com; ebmuscat@motolite.com
(Pls. email to one addressee only).

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In the Job Market advertisement of the **De La Salle University-Dasmariñas** last April 23, 2006, we inadvertently used the logo of the **De La Salle-College of St. Benilde**.

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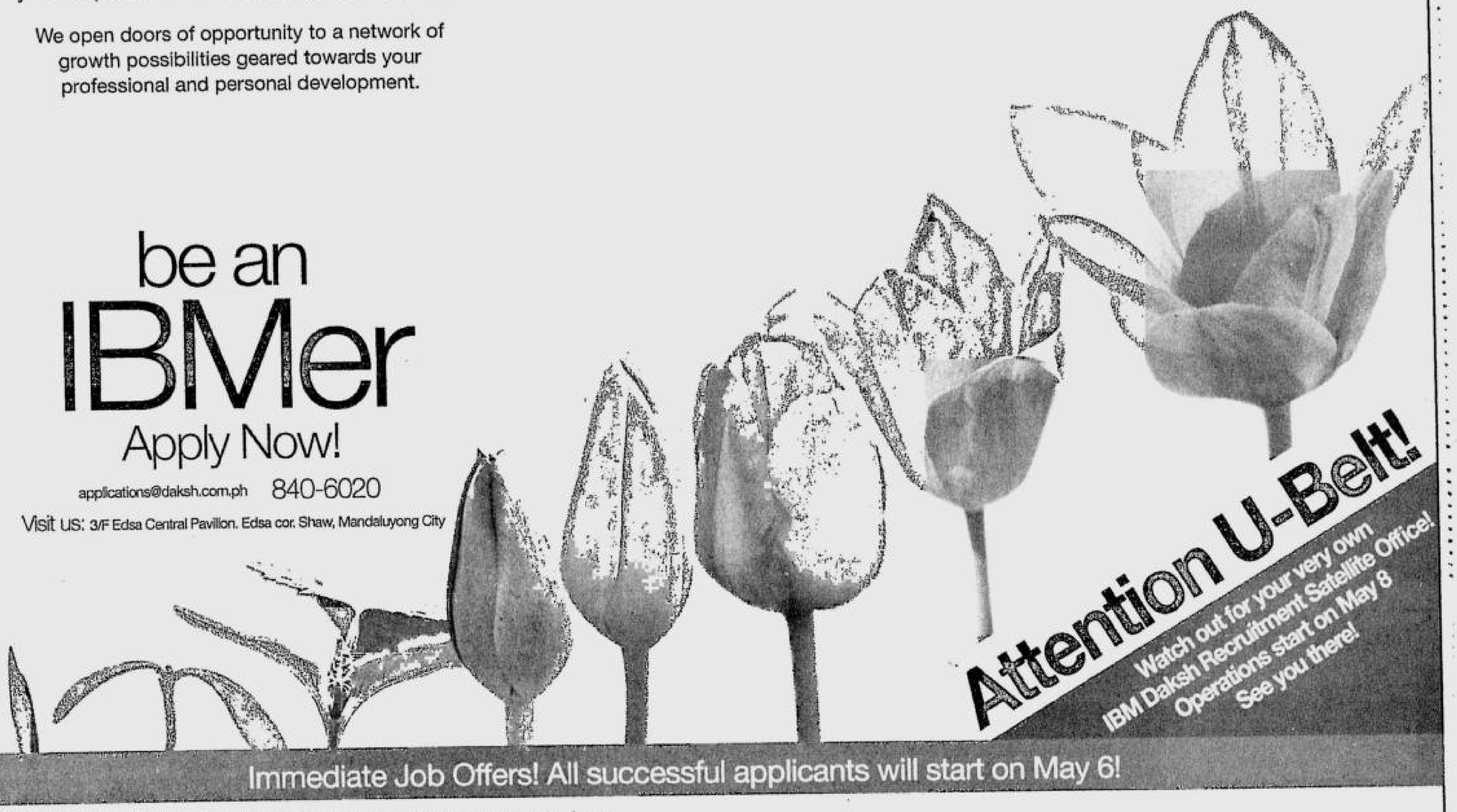

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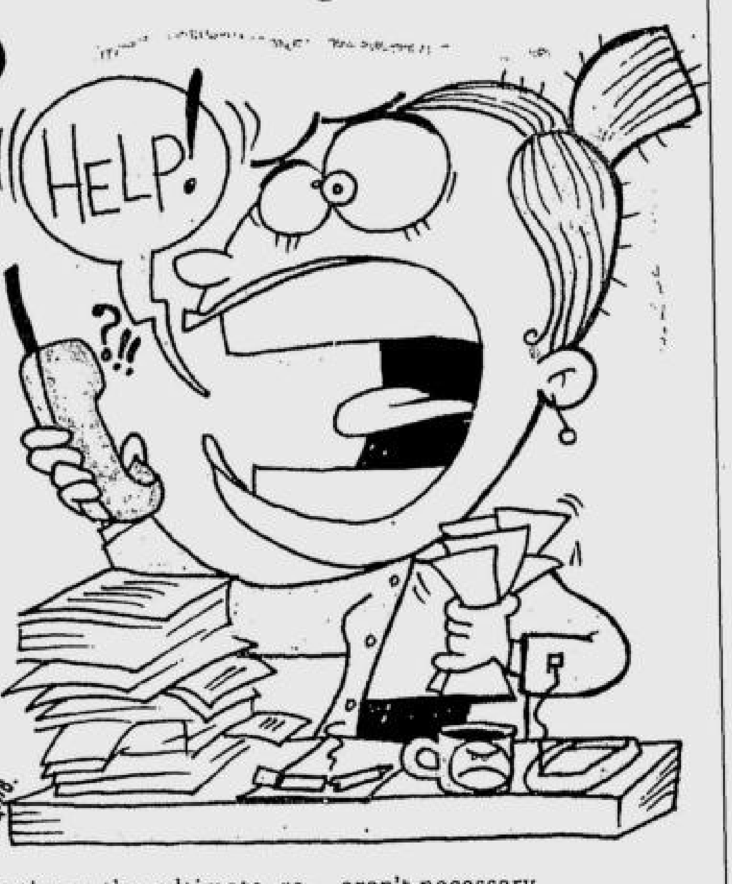
SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2006

E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

How do you reduce your stress at work?



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WORKING WOUNDED
Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: THE STRESS AT work is really starting to get to me. Any advice on how to just survive today's workplace?

Stressed Out

Just when you thought the workplace was overstressed, comes word from Microsoft that it's going to get worse. Microsoft's British division announced an Internet-ready portable outhouse with a computer and a plasma screen. Initially, Microsoft said it was a hoax, but later Microsoft UK admitted that they had been working to debut this product at British festivals.

This story reminded me that in the future the workplace is only going to get faster, more complex and more stressful. So when it comes to stress, these are the good old days. I've listed a series of stress busting strategies below. For more, check out Wolf Rinker's book, "Don't Oil the Squeaky Wheel" (McGraw Hill, 2004).

Do you change the changeable? Let me give you a small example. When I would write this column each week I would get frustrated at having to go to a bunch of pull down menus in my word processing program to find things that I needed. One day I realized that I could put all the stuff I used each week on the menu bar so they were only one click away. How many issues are like this at work? Where we can eliminate our headaches if we only know what they are and do a bit of digging to explore all of our options?

Do you seek to accept the unchangeable? I get a lot of e-mail every week from people who complain that they would have the perfect job if it wasn't for (fill in the blank with boss, coworkers, customers—or whatever ails you). The question that I always ask, is your headache worth leaving your job over? They seldom are. That's why we often need to learn how to accept, turn our back on or to get as far away from certain stressors at work.

Do you remove the unacceptable? If the unchangeable is starting to really bug you, then sometimes you have to take drastic action, like quitting your job. Yes, sometimes the ultimate removing the unacceptable is to take yourself out of the equation. There are other times where you need to fire an employee, quit a committee or otherwise take yourself out of harm's way.

Do you look for opportunities to simplify? Recently, I've moved into a small apartment after living in houses for many years. I can't begin to tell you how wonderful it is to simplify your lifestyle. It's amazing how often we get stuck supporting hobbies, habits, behaviors, etc. that just aren't necessary.

Do you focus on the positive? The best stress reliever I know is to always surround yourself with people with positive attitudes.

Normally, I try to finish my column with a pun based on the opening story. But given this week's topic, I thought I'd take some of the stress off me this week and just say goodbye.

(*Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at* bob@workingwounded.com.)

'Should I continue my MBA studies in Manila?'

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I AM CURRENTLY working in a cooperative in our province working in the accounting office. For our upcoming reorganization, I was informed that an MBA has more weight than a license. I have already taken up six units of MBA here in the province, but I am planning to continue my studies in Manila because the quality of education in Manila is much better than in the province.

To tell you frankly, I was disappointed when my professor asked us to tell him if we want to attain the highest honor when we finish our master's degree so that he will be able to adjust our grades. We could even put in our final examination the grades that we want. Some schools even offer an easy way to finish a master's if you pay for the thesis. I don't want to demean the universities here but I am having second thoughts in finishing my master's in the province.

I still don't know if I still want to work in my job. I am thinking of working abroad in the future. But as of the moment, I want to finish my master's. Money is not a problem but I keep thinking of what's the better choice. Travel time from our province to Manila is four hours and the tuition fee in Manila is much higher than in the province. But I would like to have a good quality education. I don't have to graduate with highest honors. It would be sad if one graduates with highest honors without knowing much.

Please help me decide what is better, to finish my MBA in the province or in Manila? Thanks.

Education Advocate

You are thinking of pursuing your MBA in Manila where you think the quality of education is better. Is this the right decision? Let us begin with the reasons why you are pursuing a master's even if you already have a license in accountancy. I can sense from your letter that you want to earn enough points so you have a good placement in the upcoming reorganization. But this should be a secondary reason. The primary reason has to be the search for knowledge through a good degree of academic rigor. A master's education enables and empowers you to get into other jobs or careers or opportunities in the future.

If you agree with me that the primary reason for studying is learning, then you have to find a quality school with excellent faculty and sterling reputation. Then, also recognize that in a quality institution, the other source of learning and network are your classmates. It pays to have qualified classmates who can challenge your theories and thinking. I studied and then taught at a prestigious graduate school of management for two years. The intellectual ferment from the classroom discussions made me think and inspired me to give my best. I also had much fun. I often look back to those days with much gratitude in my heart. So high grades and honors are simply perks but they are not the key reasons why we go to school.

I agree with you. Pursue a quality education in Manila but make your decision based on facts. There are quality educational institutions in the province. I suggest you scour the different universities in your province and in Manila and check out the curriculum, credentials of the faculty, the level of learning resources to include access to the web (this is crucial now as a source of information) and reputation.

From your letter, I assume that you will be working week days and studying on Saturdays. If you have to commute weekly, make sure you have the good health and stamina to work on this for the next two to three years. This may be tough, but if you have the resolve, you will achieve your dream. God bless.

(*Ms Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback to* advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to 892-2902. For other inquiries, call 892-2895, 892-2896 or 892-2898.*)

'How can I learn to love what I do?'

By Ernie O. Cecilia, FPM

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR
Ernie O. Cecilia

IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS SINCE I started working in a fairly large company. I have been in three positions already.

I must admit that I am using very little of what I learned in school. Worse, the things that I do now do not interest me. I once asked advice from our HR manager and she told me that in order to make the most of my career, I should learn to love the things that I do.

Considering that my present position is not in line with what I studied in college, and that my interests in life are different from what I do at work, how can I learn to love my work and enjoy my stay in the company? Should I start looking for another job? Please understand that I don't want to join the ranks of the jobless.

Bored Member

Let me assure you that there are millions in your situation now. Countless others have taken the first jobs that came along, usually without much thought about whether or not they will enjoy doing their work.

It is true that you will tend to get the most out of your career if you enjoy your work. It is almost pathetic to be forcing oneself to do a job that is not enjoyable.

Myth

Many have the wrong notion that work must be hard, or difficult or tiring or utterly thankless. I used to have a boss who always castigated us whenever he caught us laughing and enjoying our work. He said that happiness and productivity never go together. I tend to disagree with him. Many of the people who are successful in their work usually enjoy what they do.

Interests

Conversely, people who do not enjoy what they do can't be expected to give their best. At best, they tend to go through the motion of doing the activities, without producing the desired results.

I'm glad you realize that your work does not interest you now. I suppose you know what interests you. Knowing your interests, inclinations, talents, and passion can lead you to your ideal job. There is nothing wrong if, at this stage of your career, you can sit down and seriously find out what you really want to do with your life and your career. Forget that you have invested five solid years in your present company—seek out your dream job. Better yet, find out if there are other jobs in your present company where you are best suited. Only you will truly know what you really want to do.

Experiment

If you don't know what you want, try experimenting with the different aspects of your job. Usually, any kind of job requires a mixture of varied activities—e.g., report writing, talking to people, analysis, making presentation, recording transactions, etc. Look back as far as you can and find out which parts of your past and present jobs have given you some sense of satisfaction or enjoyment. This will indicate what you like most and therefore what you might best enjoy doing. Seek transfer to jobs that interest you or, at worst, look for these in other companies.

If transferring or resigning is not an option for you, here's another crazy suggestion. It is so crazy, but at some point in my career, it worked well for me. In fact, it seems completely the opposite of my earlier suggestion that you look for what you want to do.

Do what others hate to do

If you want to have a great career, you might want to consider my crazy suggestion—do what others hate to do. This might sound ironic, if not utterly crazy. If you have tried everything else and nothing works for you, there's nothing to lose if you try crazy ideas.

Be on the lookout for things that others in your team hate to do. Volunteer to do these things—such as taking minutes of meetings, talking to your boss about the group's concerns, breaking the bad news to some people, doing things that have never been done before, and a host of thankless jobs that nobody wants to do at all.

Benefits to your career

Doing what others hate to do will benefit your career. You will find little competition as there are likely very few people crazy enough to volunteer for tasks they hate to do. In most organizations, there are a lot of tasks left undone because people simply hate to do them. If you make a career out of doing things that others hate to do, you will find yourself in great demand. Eventually, there will always be a job for people who love to do what others hate to do.

Develop this strange liking for unwanted jobs, starting with what your teammates hate to do. Then, expand your horizon and see what your boss hates to do. Learn to love what your boss hates to do and volunteer to do them, until he develops the confidence to pass on to you the most unsavory but important parts of his job. These unwanted jobs might include preparing a detailed budget, writing a boring technical report, conducting a research or survey, conducting a briefing with his subordinates, or attending a task force meeting in his behalf.

This gives you an inside track in your career. First, you begin to learn the job of your boss. Next, you will be assured that what you are doing has relevance to your boss and to his organization. You will develop new skills, grow on the job, be more visible in your organization and therefore increase your potential for promotion.

Sometimes, the road less traveled is the best route to success. In an oft-trodden road, you could just be a face in the crowd and never get noticed by the powers that be. Plodding aimlessly among nameless faces is the best way to either get buried in oblivion or consigned to limbo.

(Public service announcement: There will be a grand reunion of all alumni of the University of Nueva Caceres, Naga City in September this year. Alumni in Metro Manila can e-mail me their contact details so that the Organizing Committee can contact them.)

(*Mr. Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. E-mail feedback to* ernie_cecilia@yahoo.com.)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

A ghost to rely on

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

FROM THE SEMINARS I CONDUCT FOR WORKERS, I GATHER THAT there are indeed haunted workplaces where people see or sense ghostly presences, and experience strange or inexplicable incidents. These allegedly haunted places of work naturally give some the creeps, though for many they are a convenient excuse for not doing overtime alone. However, not everyone believes in such scary phenomena—at least not in their personal work station. Like me. Some workers in the CBCP Compound swear there are ghosts frequenting certain offices or spots like the library, the stairway near the ladies' room, etc. Some reporters themselves who work daily here at the CBCP Media Office claim they have seen ghosts in my very room, while some visitors declare that my room has such positive vibrations that they like to linger in it!

Although I do not rule out the possibility that ghosts do exist, I myself have yet to encounter one. I've been to so many "haunted" places including offices, and in fact invite ghosts to show themselves to me if that will help them. But so far, no one has showed up, leading me to think that ghosts—imagined or real—shouldn't be feared; they can only do me harm if I let them. Tough if my fear of them hinders my work performance, great if my trust in them can help me locate missing documents, for instance. Unless and until a ghost can convince me beyond doubt that it is more powerful than God, I will go on believing I can keep them under control. The choice is mine—ours, really. To help me in my work then, I choose to count on the Holy Ghost, which Jesus promised to send us after His ascension into heaven. It may sound foolish to some but, happy to say, it's worked for me who is no saint but just an ordinary believer, so why shouldn't it work for everybody else? (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Gospel: Luke 24: 35-48
...he stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost.

An enjoyable presence

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

ONE PROFESSOR I HAD SOME YEARS BACK WAS KNOWN AS a"terror" among the students. He was very qualified for his job. But his presence in class and his ways of teaching and dealing with the students created a tense atmosphere that was not conducive to learning. In fact, one classmate of mine would sweat profusely and stammer in speech (signs of nervousness and fear) when he was called to recite in class by that professor. I observed that the professor's qualification, dedication to teach and perhaps his great motivation to make us learn then, did not make him succeed in bringing about a joyful and peaceful learning process; instead, a heavy and burdensome feeling had prevailed in the whole class.

Similarly, in the workplace, there are some bosses who would inspire more fear than confidence in the workers; and would create in the minds and hearts of their colleagues more anxieties and doubts than security and assurances. They would insist on their qualifications and position to gain compliance or subservience from their subordinates, rather than build an atmosphere of teamwork and collaboration among their coworkers through good human relationships. They would rather impose an authoritative presence among the workers than inspire a loving presence among them.

When everyone in the workplace, both the executives and the ordinary workers, becomes conscious of the presence of Jesus in himself, the atmosphere of joy, peace and harmony reigns and everyone enjoys the presence of every person. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

Do you want to make a career transition?

By Jo Anne R. Dumalaon
Contributor

PEOPLE AT WORK *Pulse*

"AM I IN THE CAREER THAT is right for me? Should I change direction?" These are among the most pressing questions in a working professional's life. According to Professor Herminia Ibarra, author of the book, "Working Identity, Unconventional Strategies for Reinventing your Career" (2004), our career and the work that we do is one of our important sources of personal meaning and social definition. Our working identity helps define who we are, the "possible selves" that we could become, and the risk and opportunities that come with making life-changing career shifts.

Survey

Are people interested in making career transitions? What factors influence one's decisions? What activities and barriers are involved in changing careers? People at Work Pulse attempts to answer these questions in order to take a deeper look at readers' perspectives on career transitions.

A total of 45 respondents answered last month's survey with ages ranging from 21-60 years old. Majority of the respondents were female (58 percent), and single (64 percent). Respondents have been working in their present career for an average of 10 years. A total of 62 percent of the respondents came from private firms, 29 percent from the academe, and 9 percent from government agencies. When asked whether they were satisfied with their current career, 51 percent declared that they were not satisfied.

A significant number of respondents want to shift careers. A total of 72 percent reported that they are seeking a career change: 36 percent mentioned that they are actively doing so and 36 percent plan to do so but not at present. Some also mentioned that they are not sure (9 percent) and only 20 percent have declared that they have no plans of changing their careers.

Factors in career transition

Respondents, regardless of gender or civil status, also reported that the top reasons that have influenced or will influence their decision to change careers are their personal values and interests.

According to Deirdre McEachern, career coach, when one's work is aligned with his or her personal values and interest, the work would feel like a purposeful "calling" rather than a mere job. Respondents also cited other factors in deciding to change careers such as greater income potential and opportunities, dissatisfaction with current job, and more time for the family, in that particular order.

Barriers

In changing careers, respondents have cited that their top considerations when making career transitions are to actively search for career opportunities in the field of their interests, have discussions with family, friends and acquaintances about the issue, and to pursue further studies. A few also want to consult a career counselor. One respondent claimed that she is willing to do volunteer work to gain experience in the career that she wants to shift in. There were also two respondents who mentioned the importance of a healthy spiritual life in making a career transition.

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Results of the survey also showed that the main barrier in career transitions are economic or monetary conditions, followed by lack of experience in field of interest, advice of family and friends, and age. Many people fear that making a career switch will be fraught with risks, but not making a move is also risky, says Ibarra, noting that people can reach the end of their career routes without ever fulfilling their true potential.

Moving towards destination

Career transition occurs through small wins rather than a grand expensive design. It is a change that does not happen overnight. Changing careers is not merely a matter of changing the work we do. Activities such as engaging in the practice of finding people who can be mentors and role models, participating in project assignments to get experience or taking courses and investing in further training are some of the small wins that could eventually lead to one's career destination.

According to Professor Ibarra, one's career transition may be likened to a voyage from one place to another. Like any other voyage, there is a departure, a disorienting time of travel and finally a destination. Here are some activities which could guide you towards a successful career transition.

1. Crafting experiments: Trying out new activities and professional roles on a small scale before making a major commitment to a different path.

2. Shifting connections: Developing contacts who can open doors to new worlds, and finding role models and new peer groups to guide and benchmark your progress.

3. Making sense: Finding or creating catalysts and triggers for change and using them as occasions to rework your working identity in light of emerging possibilities.

A final advice to career shifters: what you can do, or dream you can do, begin it!

(Ms Dumalaon is currently pursuing her master's in Industrial/Organizational Psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University.)

Research shows people want to keep on working after retirement

LONDON—PEOPLE around the world want to work past their traditional retirement ages and choose for themselves when to step off the career ladder, according to a global survey by banking giant HSBC.

The bank questioned 21,000 people and 6,000 employers across 20 countries and territories for its 2006 survey on attitudes towards ageing, retirement and increased longevity.

"According to HSBC's research, people the world over want to continue working past traditional retirement ages," the bank said. It added that 72 percent of respondents rejected the notion of a mandatory retirement age, believing that employees should be able to carry on working "as long as they are capable of doing the job well." HSBC noted: "People want to abandon traditional models of retirement in favor of self-sufficiency and a mix of work and leisure."

The report, entitled "The Future of Retirement," comes amid an ongoing debate in Europe about the need to reform state pension systems to cope with the rising cost of rapidly ageing populations.

In Western Europe, workers are increasingly being asked to work until 65 years of age before receiving state pension benefits.

"Given a choice, most people (36 percent) think their government should enforce additional private savings, rather than increase the retirement age (23 percent), raise taxes (12 percent) or reduce pensions (12 percent)," it read.

HSBC chief executive Stephen Green, who is due to become group chairman next month, noted that governments and businesses "cannot afford to shy away from the enormous challenges and opportunities presented by global ageing." Survey participants had a variety of reasons for carrying on working—with just one in four people choosing the need for extra cash.

Of those questioned, 22 percent said that they needed "something meaningful" to do with their time, while 13 percent wanted to "connect with others" in a social environment.

Keeping physically active was cited as a key reason for 21 percent of people, while 22 percent wanted the mental stimulation of the workplace.

"Universally, people associate retirement with freedom, happiness and satisfaction," the report added.

"Family, friends and fitness define the quality of later life, not money, and people want to remain active, contributory and involved in some kind of work in their later years." Some 43 percent of those polled said that they wanted to fund their retirement either through savings or by continuing to work, possibly on a part-time basis.

Meanwhile, around 49 percent of employers questioned said that older workers are just as productive and motivated as their younger employees. **AFP**

PMAP'S 43RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE SET

This year's most awaited gathering of the nationwide membership of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines will be held at the Crowne Plaza, Galleria Manila in Ortigas Center, Pasig City on Sept. 27 to 29. With the theme "Inspiring MVP's, Creating New Heroes", the conference aims to further build and strengthen the HR role as a valued partner and player in business organizations, showcase best practices that would add more value to HR profession, and enhance the emerging role of HR as creator of new heroes. Shown from left: Imelda Centeno, PMAP VP and conference chair, Paul Rene Lee, Crowne Plaza's general manager and Trixie de Chavez, Crowne Plaza's meetings director.

Seminar on formulating personnel policies set

THE PERSONNEL Management Association of the Philippines is sponsoring a seminar on Formulating and Manualizing Personnel Policies and Procedures is scheduled on May 3-4, 2006. Registration fee is P7,400 for PMAP members and P9,100 for Non PMAP Center. The program is addressed to personnel managers or their assistants, this program aims to provide effective guides in planning and preparing a personnel administration manual. It covers both the technical and procedural aspects of formulating and implementing sound personnel policies and programs.

The program entitled Administering Labor Standards and Benefits is scheduled on May 4. Registration fee is P3,500 for PMAP Members and P5,000 for Non PMAP member. The program aims to orient participants with the requirements of the Labor Code in the implementation of laws on Labor Standards. At the end of the session, it is expected that the participants would be better equipped to formulate, administer and recruitment and placement as a business function.

HR Executive Series on Knowledge Management is scheduled on May 11. Registration fee is P7,500 for PMAP members and P9,500 for Non PMAP members. The program aims the participants to understand and appreciate the meaning and importance of "knowledge" and "knowledge management" (KM); understand and appreciate the link between KM and business results; be able to measure, track, evaluate and prioritize knowledge assets, knowledge processes and knowledge enablers for attaining business goals and be familiar with some KM strategies and tools related to HR management. Registration fee is P7,500 for PMAP Members and P9,500 for Non PMAP Members.

All programs will be held at PMAP Center in Mandaluyong City. For reservations, please contact The Human Resource Management Development Center at telephone numbers 726-1581; 726-1588 or 726-1532; email address: mirajakosalem@pmap.org.ph or you may visit the website: www.pmap.org.ph

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- Responsibility & Accountability of Bookkeepers, Accountants, Auditors and Company Officials

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- Preliminary Assessment Notice
- Final Assessment Notice

Day 3
- BIR Subpoena Duces Tecum
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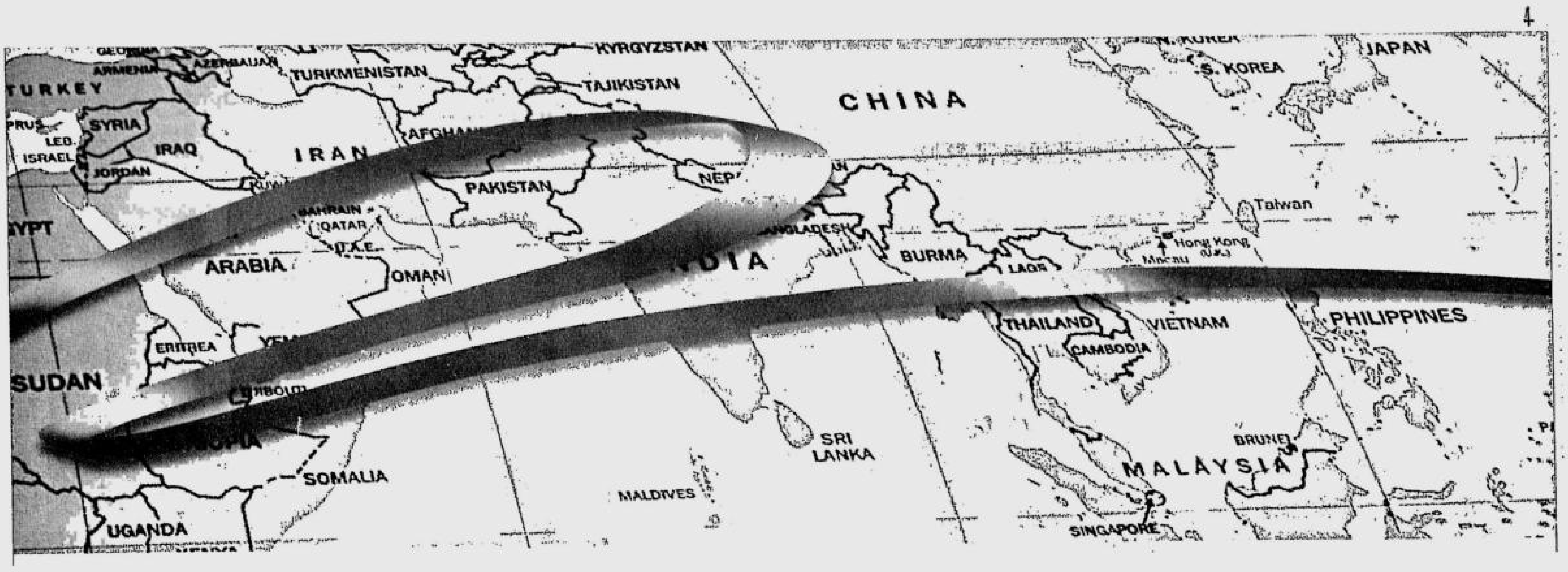


3G with HSDPA:
First in Asia-Pacific, a first from Globe!

Following its successful rollout of 3G services including HSDPA or "3.5G", Globe Telecom is now the first telecom company in the Asia-Pacific region and among less than 20 in the world to have launched HSDPA/3.5G capabilities to customers. This technology boosts the functionality of 3G by allowing faster data transfer speeds and Internet browsing, while still letting subscribers enjoy basic 3G services such as video calls and video streaming. With its launch of Globe Mobile Broadband 3G with HSDPA, Globe is now building the network of the future.

Hi-speed mobile Internet

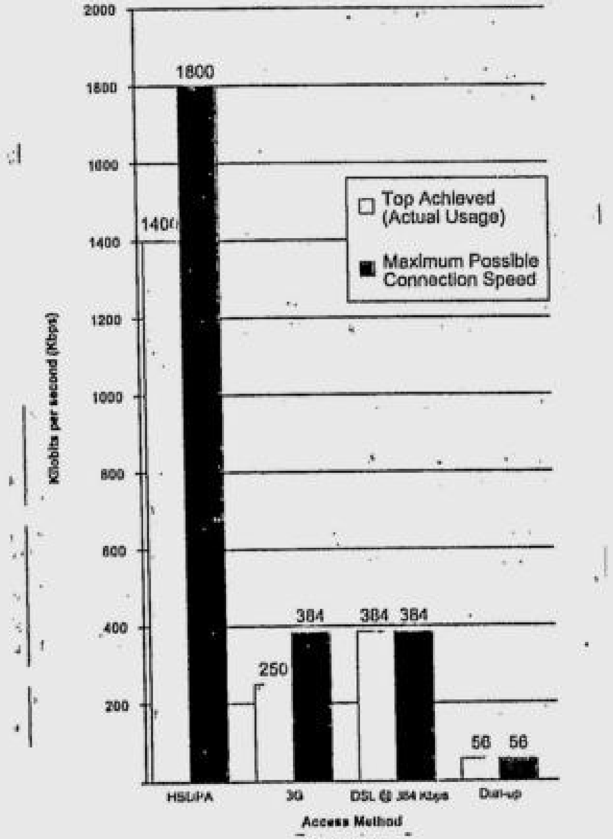
HSDPA (High Speed Downlink Packet Access, commonly referred to as "3.5G") enables data transfer rates of up to 1.4 Megabits per second (Mbps) with peaks of up to 1.8 Mbps – rather than the previous 384 kilobits for 3G. With an HSDPA-data card for example, browsing the Internet on your laptop will be up to 25 times faster than dial-up Internet access. Mobile customers can now use their notebook or mobile phone to surf the Internet at broadband speeds and download large volumes of data such as movies or large e-mail attachments faster than before.

making great things
Glo

Globe conducted the first live HSDPA demo in the Philippines at the SEA Games Media Bureau in December 2005.

HSDPA technology lays the groundwork for the network of the future as it upgrades the capabilities of 3G. The launch of Globe Mobile Broadband 3G with HSDPA already anticipates that subscribers will demand greater functionality from 3G as the service becomes more pervasive and accessible.

Superior speeds, more powerful connectivity

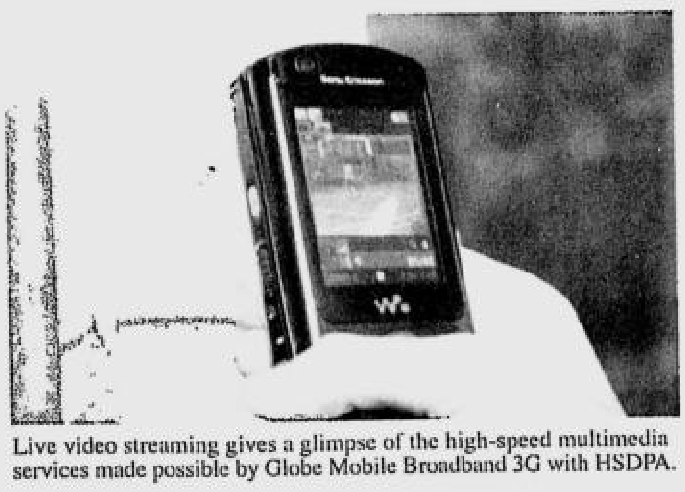


Enhanced mobile experience

With the rapid connection speeds that it delivers, Globe Mobile Broadband 3G with HSDPA opens up a lot of potential for new applications. Users can easily download full-length music tracks or large video files, and experience video streaming or mobile TV. They can also access exclusive content from various partners, including news reports from ABS-CBN, CNN and GMA.

The video calling and streaming services enabled by 3G will also be available to users of Globe Mobile Broadband 3G with HSDPA.

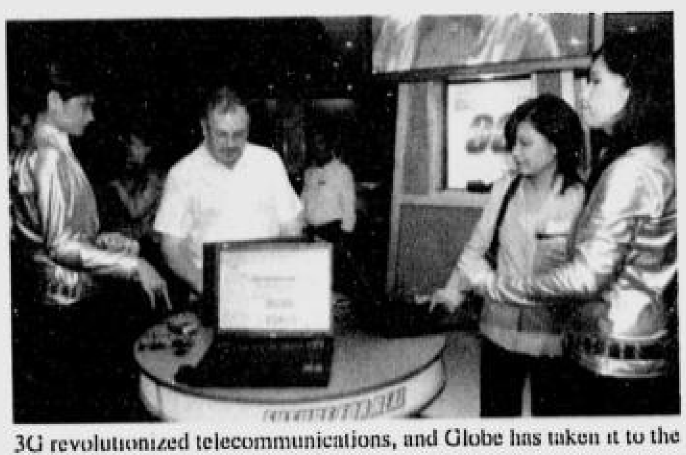
In addition,Globe prepaid and postpaid subscribers can also avail of 3G basic services such as video calling (which allows the calling parties to see each other on their 3G mobile phones), video sharing (which lets users capture and send video clips to each other), and multimedia streaming.



Live video streaming gives a glimpse of the high-speed multimedia services made possible by Globe Mobile Broadband 3G with HSDPA.

Limitless possibilities

Subscribers who tried out the Globe Mobile Broadband 3G service when it was introduced earlier this year have already expressed enthusiastic feedback on the rapid web browsing speeds that it enables. Allen Bacallan, Director for Management Information Systems of General Milling Corporation, shares: "I used my 3G phone as a laptop modem in business meetings. My friends and business partners were impressed by the connection speed." PruLife UK's Vice President for Information Systems Brett Medel agrees: "3G gives me the freedom to download technical updates, check my email, or even watch TV while on the go. Busy people appreciate having services like these that enrich both their professional and personal lives." Even showbiz personality Donita Rose was excited by the potential of the technology. "It's even better than having a broadband connection because you can access information anytime, anywhere," she says.



3G revolutionized telecommunications, and Globe has taken it to the next level with its 3.5G network.

Just as 3G wowed the business community with its debut at the Globe 2nd CEO Golf Cup, HSDPA is set to make waves among tech-savvy Pinoys.

With the advent of Globe Mobile Broadband 3G with HSDPA, the possibilities have expanded even more. Globe expects a similarly eager reception from Pinoys, much like the response to the company's earlier innovations like text messaging, MMS, over-the-air reloading, and mobile commerce.

The future for real

From SMS to MMS and even mobile commerce, Filipinos have easily and eagerly embraced new developments in communications technology brought about by Globe's pioneering moves.

Through Globe Mobile Broadband 3G with HSDPA, Filipinos have the unique privilege of being the first in Asia-Pacific to try out the exciting possibilities of this new technology. Among other telcos in the region, several are also looking into rolling out HSDPA, such as Japan's NTT DoCoMo and Hong Kong's CSL. Apart from Cingular Wireless in the USA and Wataniya Telecom in Kuwait, most HSDPA networks that are already in service are located in Europe. At least 70 other mobile providers worldwide are in the testing or deployment stages, proving the global promise of this revolutionary technology.

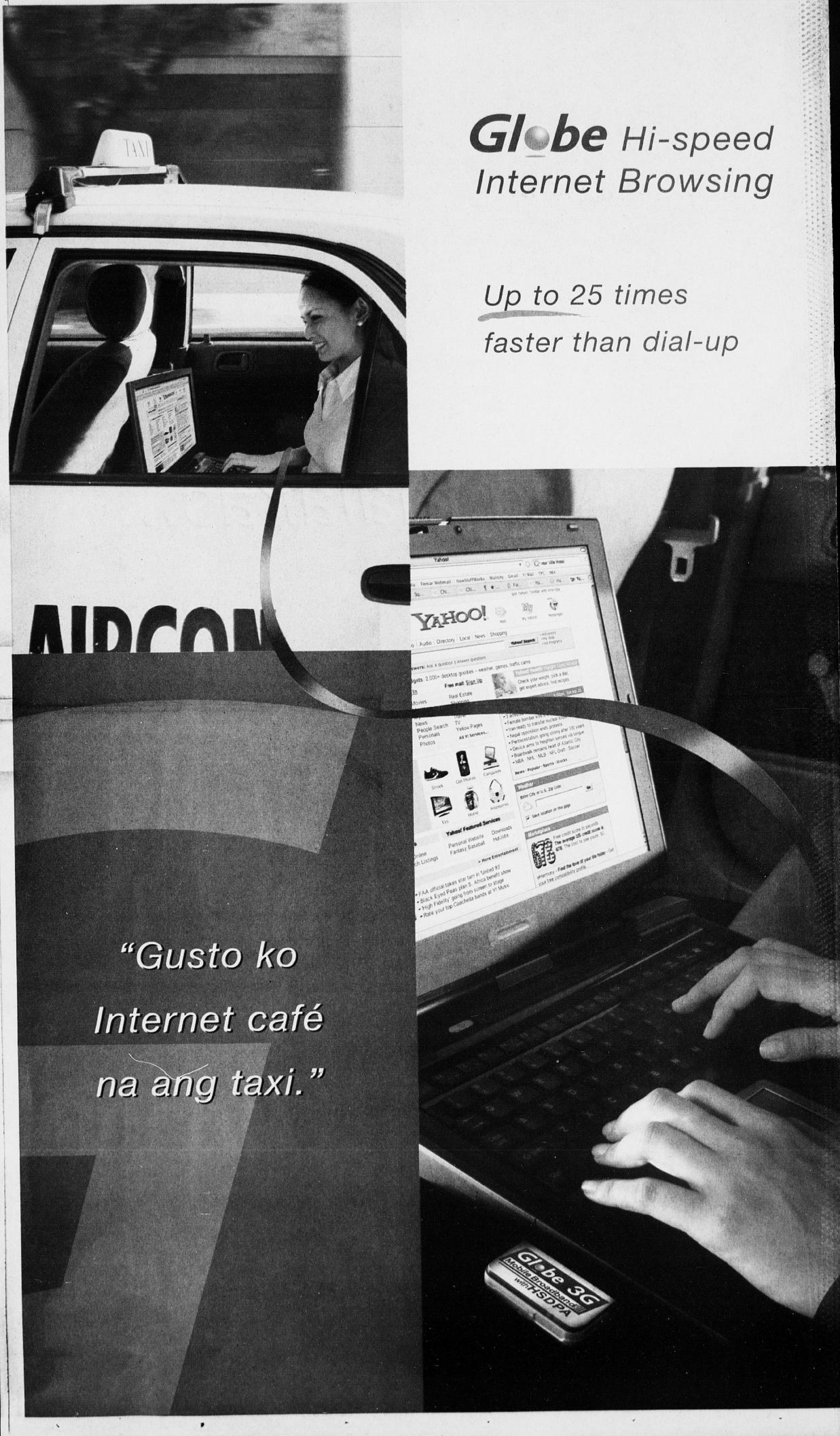
Filipino kids get to experience the technology of the future with 3G web browsing, now further enhanced with HSDPA.

Globe subscribers can now experience Globe Mobile Broadband 3G with HSDPA at regular 2G rates. Demos are available at selected Globe Business Centers in Metro Manila. The service is available in key cities nationwide, and Globe is continually working to expand its coverage to bring this new service to more Filipinos all over the country and even worldwide.

Ang malakas...

mas pinalakas pa

4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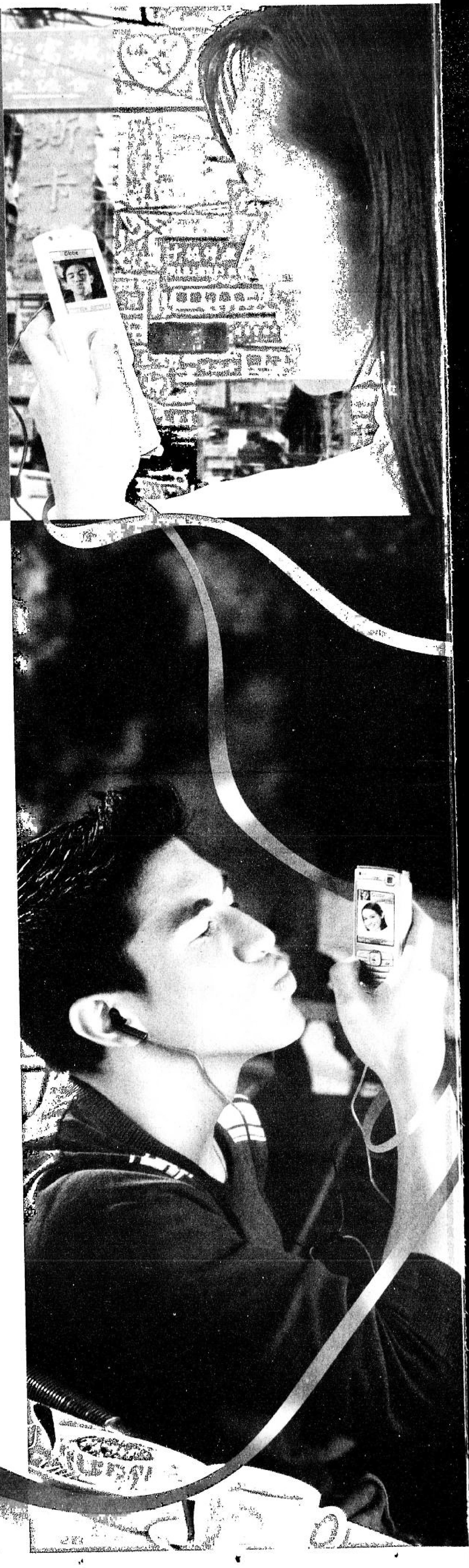

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Get top-notch entertainment anywhere you are from GMA (*Startalk and Bubble Gang)*. Take a peek at the latest goings-on *"sa bahay ni kuya"* with Pinoy Big Brother Behind the Scenes. Have a healthy dose of laughter with Rex Navarrete or Adam Sandler comedy videos, learn fitness tips from Tina Juan, and get the freshest scoop in sports from *Game Plan*. You can also watch all your favorite shows from ABS-CBN and GMA live via multimedia streaming.

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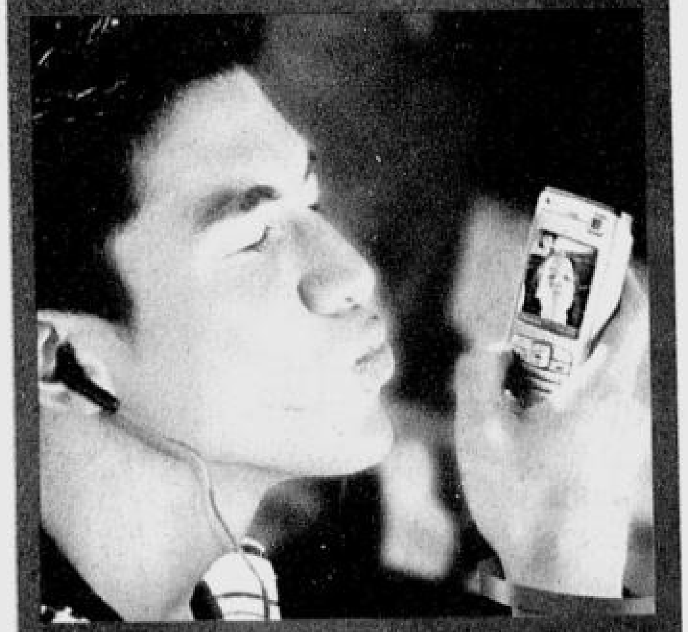

Globe Video Call and Video IDD

See and talk to all your friends via local video calls for the same local voice call rates (until May 30, 2006).

You can also connect to family members overseas with Video IDD. This service is now available in Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan, as well as in seven countries in Europe: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Finland, Hungary, Luxembourg, and Poland. Now, you can hear your loved ones' voices *and* see them face-to-face at affordable rates, equivalent to regular IDD calls (until May 30, 2006).

Globe 3G roaming is also available to postpaid subscribers for outbound calls from Japan, Hong Kong, and Singapore. Until May 30, 2006, you can enjoy this service at regular operator rates.

ENJOY GLOBE MOBILE BROADBAND 3G WITH HSDPA SERVICES NOW!

What do I need to start using the services?
- A Globe 3G-activated SIM Card
- A 3G handset, or a 3G/HSDPA data card

Globe will automatically activate your current SIM (provided you are using a 3G handset).

Is it available for prepaid?
Yes. It is open to all Globe subscribers, both postpaid and prepaid.

How do I check for a 3G signal?
- Under the <NETWORK> settings menu of your phone, select either Dual Mode or Auto Mode. This will allow your phone to function whether you are in 3G or 2G/GSM coverage. Depending on your handset, your phone may restart after you switch to Dual or Auto network mode.

- Notice your phone's signal indicator. If you are within 3G coverage, a "3G" icon (for some phones: a bubble, dot or other shape) should apear beside your signal indicator.

How do I make a Video Call?
Just dial the number of the person you wish to do a video call with (he must be using a 3G activated SIM and a 3G handset, not necessarily the same brand). If your phone has a dedicated video call key, press that key. Once the call connects, you have successfully made a video call.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

INQUIRER COMICS Sunday

APRIL 30, 2006

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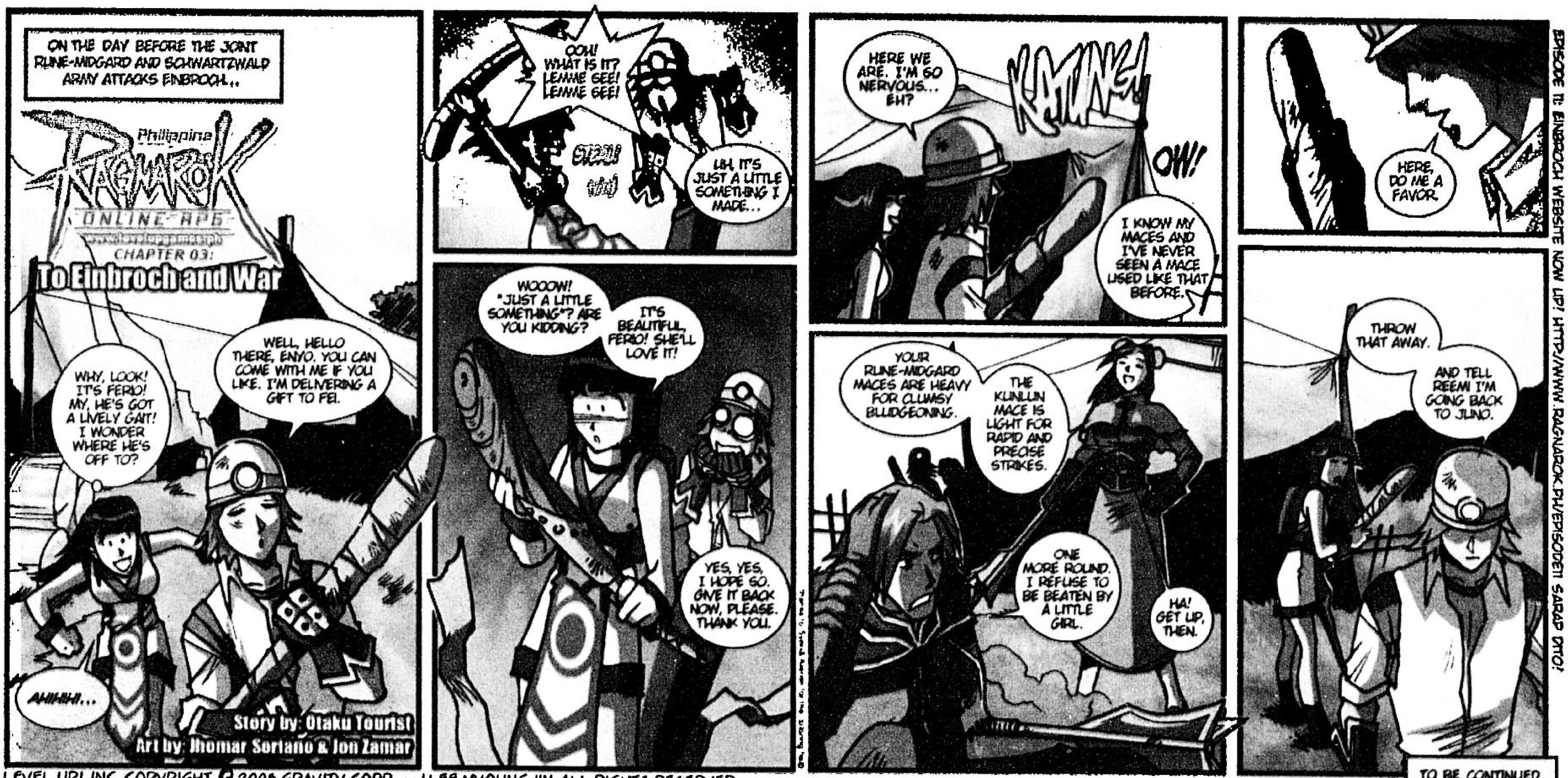
RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL UP GAMES


ON THE DAY BEFORE THE JOINT RUNE-MIDGARD AND SCHWARTZWALD ARMY ATTACKS EINBROCH..
Philippine Ragnarok ONLINE RPG
www.levelupgames.ph
CHAPTER 03:
To Einbroch and War
WHY, LOOK! IT'S FERIO! MY, HE'S GOT A LIVELY GAIT! I WONDER WHERE HE'S OFF TO?
WELL, HELLO THERE, ENYO. YOU CAN COME WITH ME IF YOU LIKE. I'M DELIVERING A GIFT TO FEI.
AHIHIHI...
Story by: Otaku Tourist
Art by: Jhomar Soriano & Jon Zamar
OOH! WHAT IS IT? LEMME SEE! LEMME SEE!
UH, IT'S JUST A LITTLE SOMETHING I MADE...
WOOOW! "JUST A LITTLE SOMETHING"? ARE YOU KIDDING?
IT'S BEAUTIFUL, FERIO! SHE'LL LOVE IT!
YES, YES, I HOPE SO. GIVE IT BACK NOW, PLEASE. THANK YOU.
HERE WE ARE. I'M SO NERVOUS... EH?
KAJING!
OW!
I KNOW MY MACES AND I'VE NEVER SEEN A MACE USED LIKE THAT BEFORE.
YOUR RUNE-MIDGARD MACES ARE HEAVY FOR CLUMSY BLUDGEONING.
THE KUNLUN MACE IS LIGHT FOR RAPID AND PRECISE STRIKES.
ONE MORE ROUND. I REFUSE TO BE BEATEN BY A LITTLE GIRL.
HA! GET UP, THEN.
HERE, DO ME A FAVOR.
THROW THAT AWAY.
AND TELL REEMI I'M GOING BACK TO JUNO.
TO BE CONTINUED.
EPISODE 11: EINBROCH WEBSITE NOW UP! HTTP://WWW.RAGNAROK.PH/EPISODE11 SARAP DITO!

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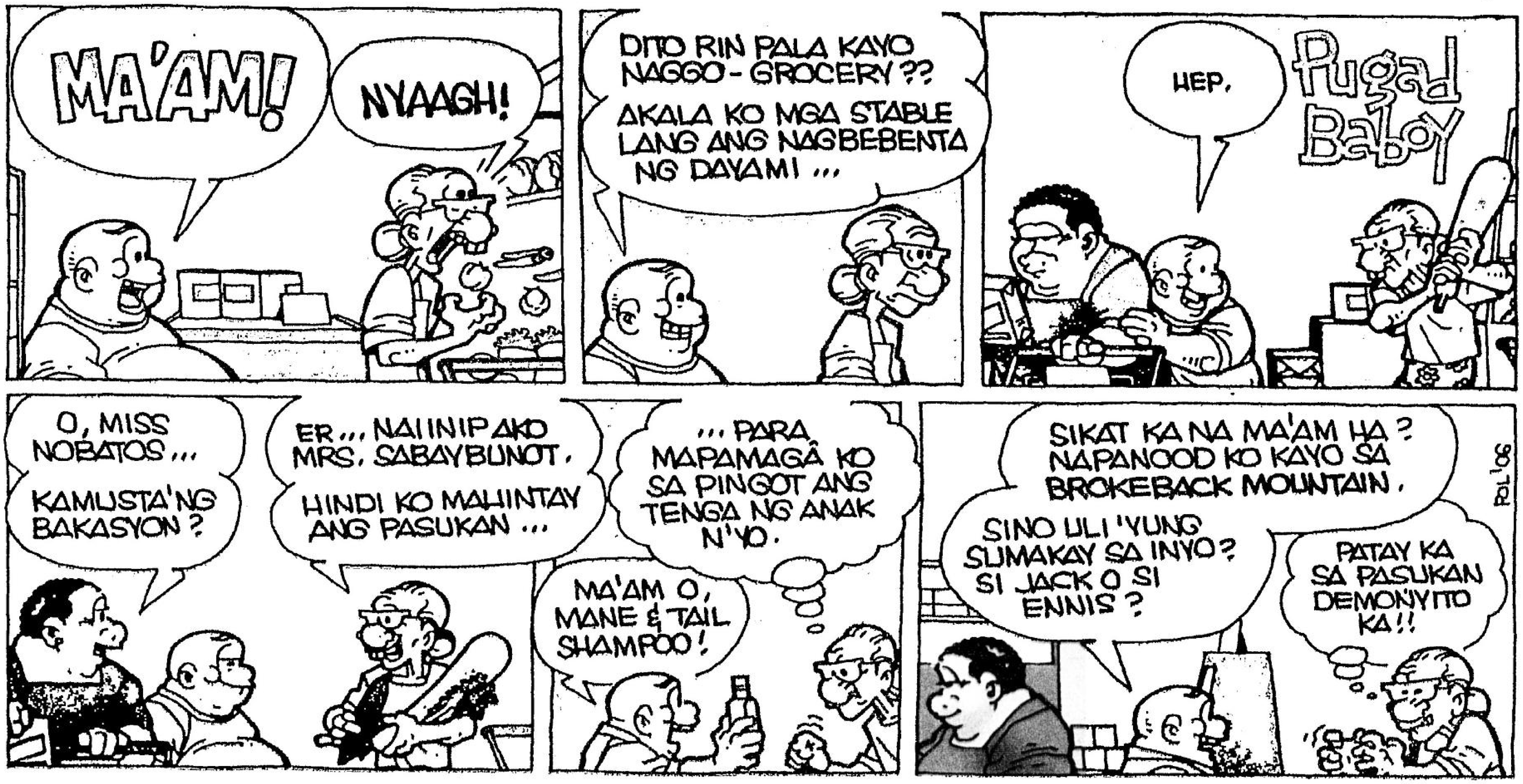
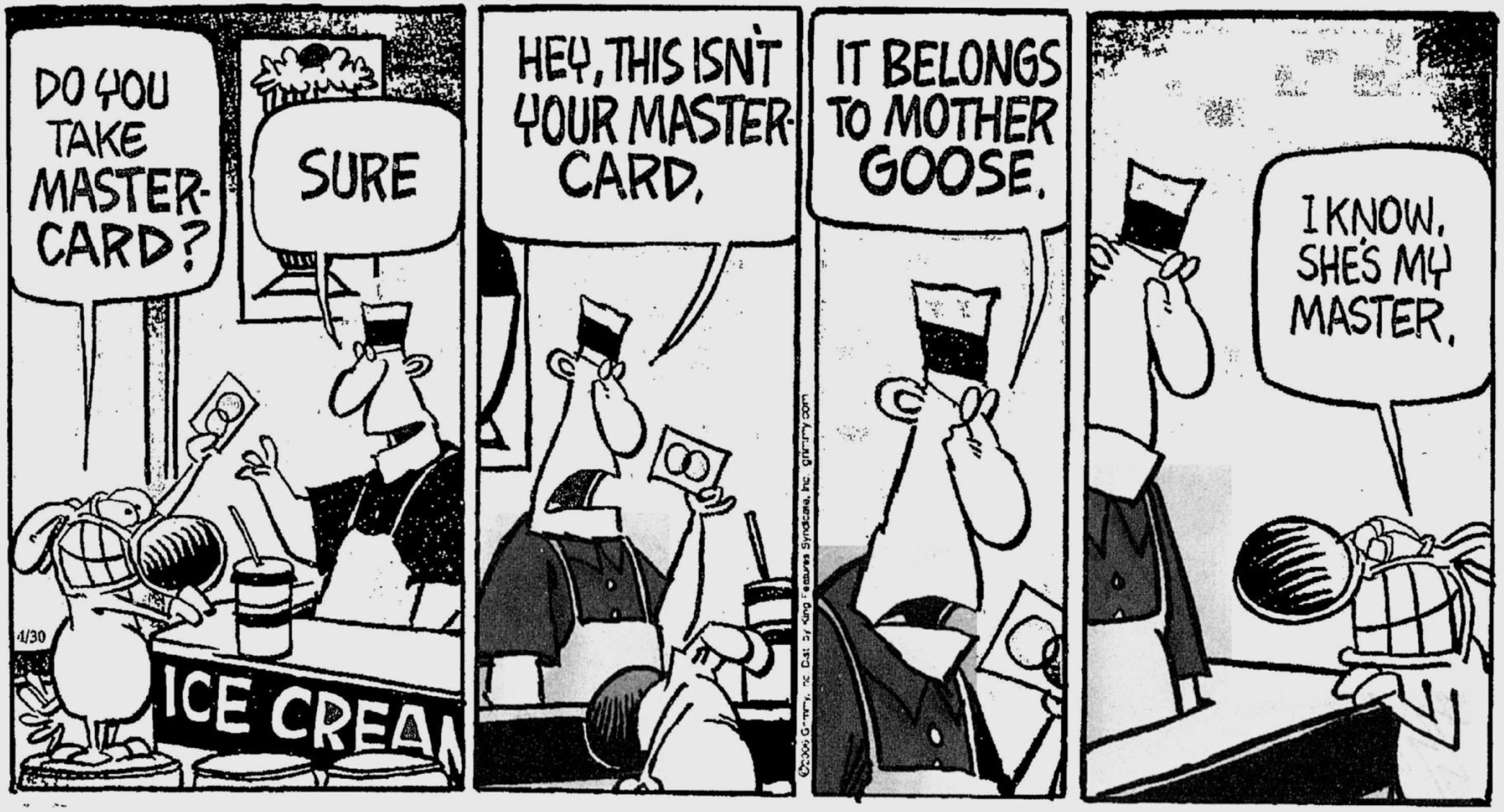
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


MA'AM!
NYAAGH!
DITO RIN PALA KAYO NAGGO-GROCERY ?? AKALA KO MGA STABLE LANG ANG NAGBEBENTA NG DAYAMI ...
HEP.
Pugad Baboy
O, MISS NOBATOS ... KAMUSTA'NG BAKASYON ?
ER ... NAIINIP AKO MRS. SABAYBUNOT. HINDI KO MAHINTAY ANG PASUKAN ...
... PARA MAPAMAGÂ KO SA PINGOT ANG TENGA NG ANAK N'YO.
MA'AM O, MANE & TAIL SHAMPOO!
SIKAT KA NA MA'AM HA ? NAPANOOD KO KAYO SA BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN.
SINO ULI 'YUNG SUMAKAY SA INYO ? SI JACK O SI ENNIS ?
PATAY KA SA PASUKAN DEMONYITO KA!!
POL '06

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


DO YOU TAKE MASTER-CARD?
SURE
4/30
ICE CREAM
HEY, THIS ISN'T YOUR MASTER-CARD.
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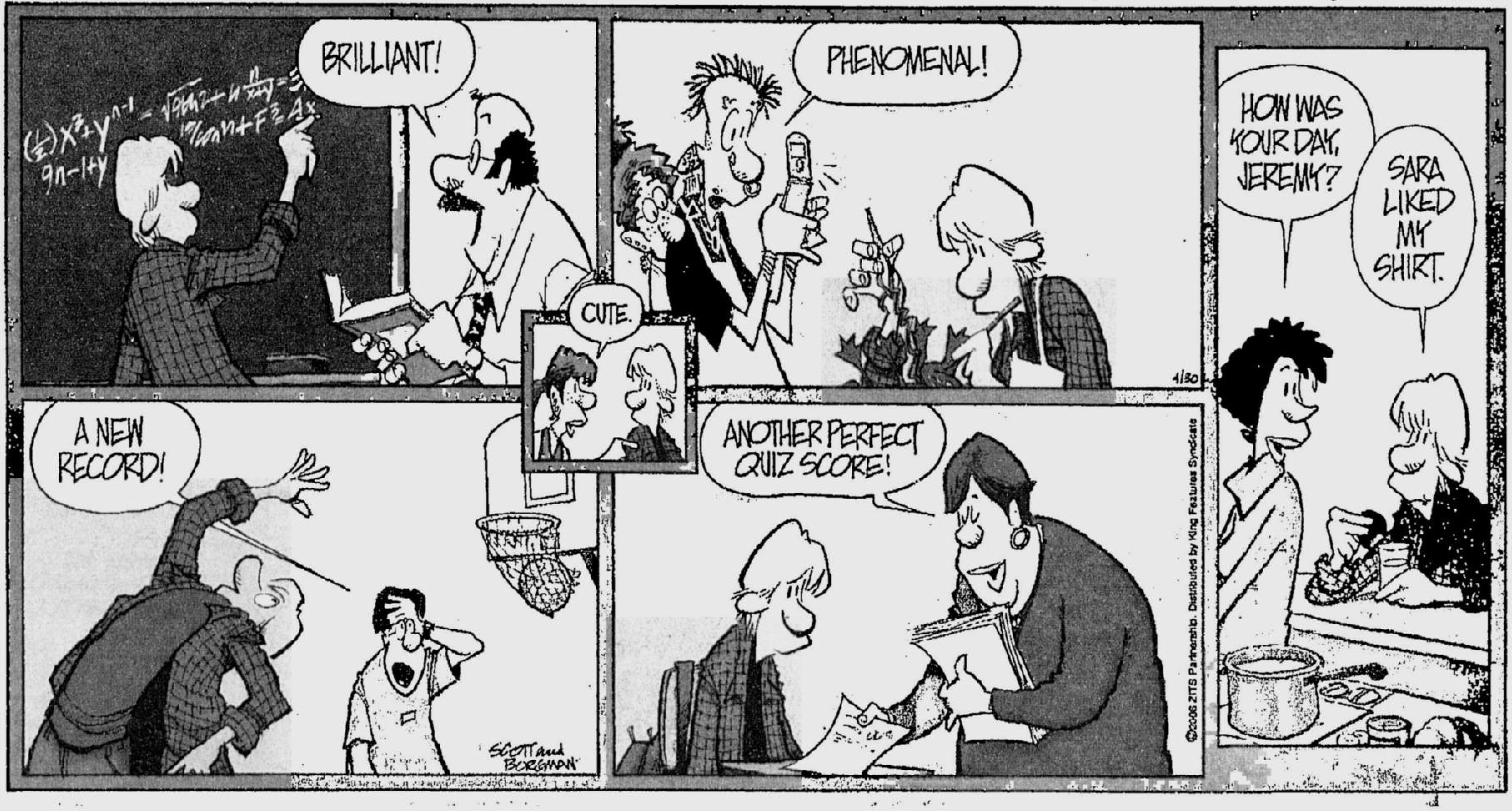
IT BELONGS TO MOTHER GOOSE.
I KNOW. SHE'S MY MASTER.

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


BRILLIANT!
PHENOMENAL!
4/30
HOW WAS YOUR DAY, JEREMY?
SARA LIKED MY SHIRT.
CUTE.
A NEW RECORD!
ANOTHER PERFECT QUIZ SCORE!
SCOTT and BORGMAN
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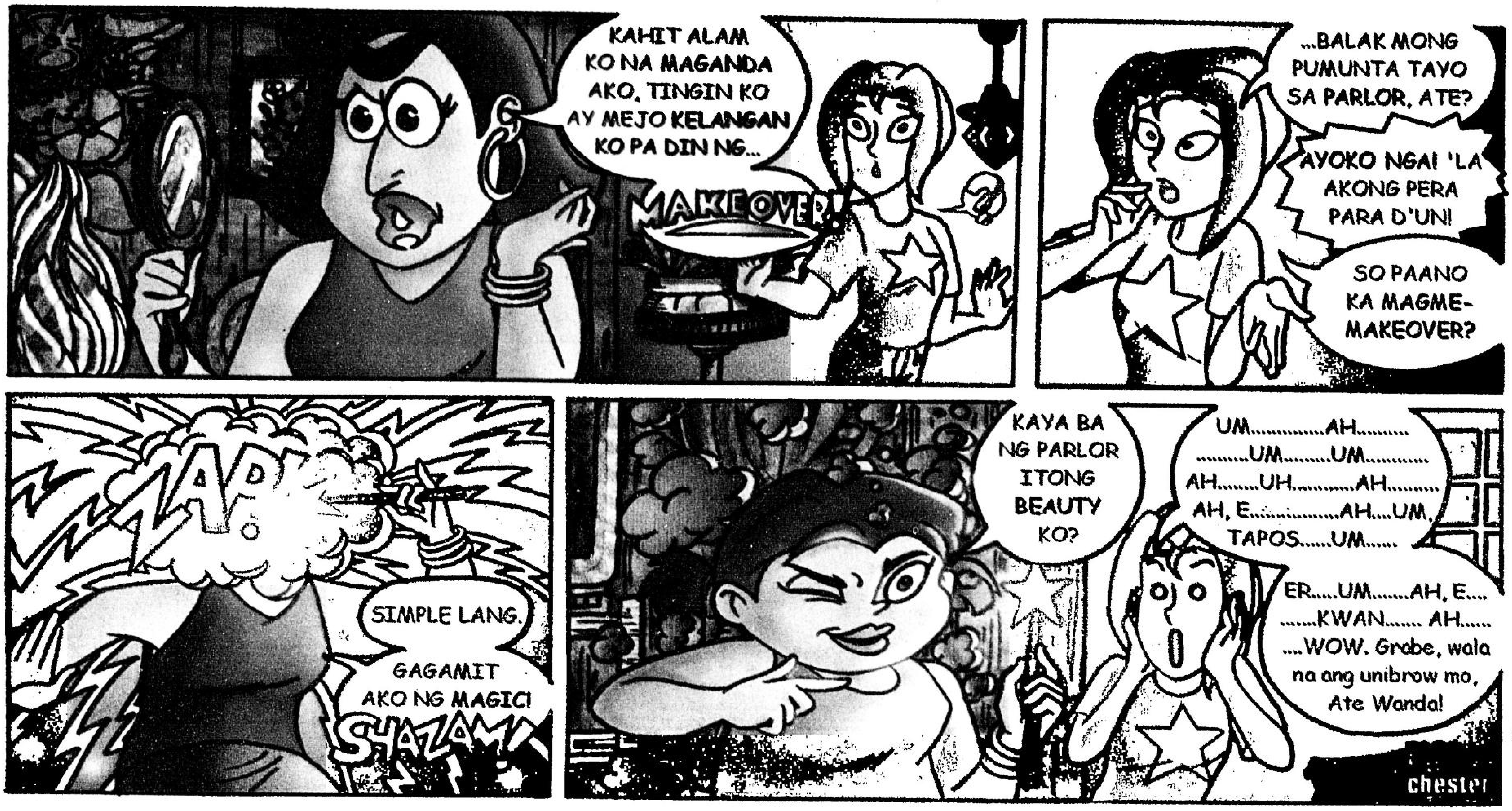
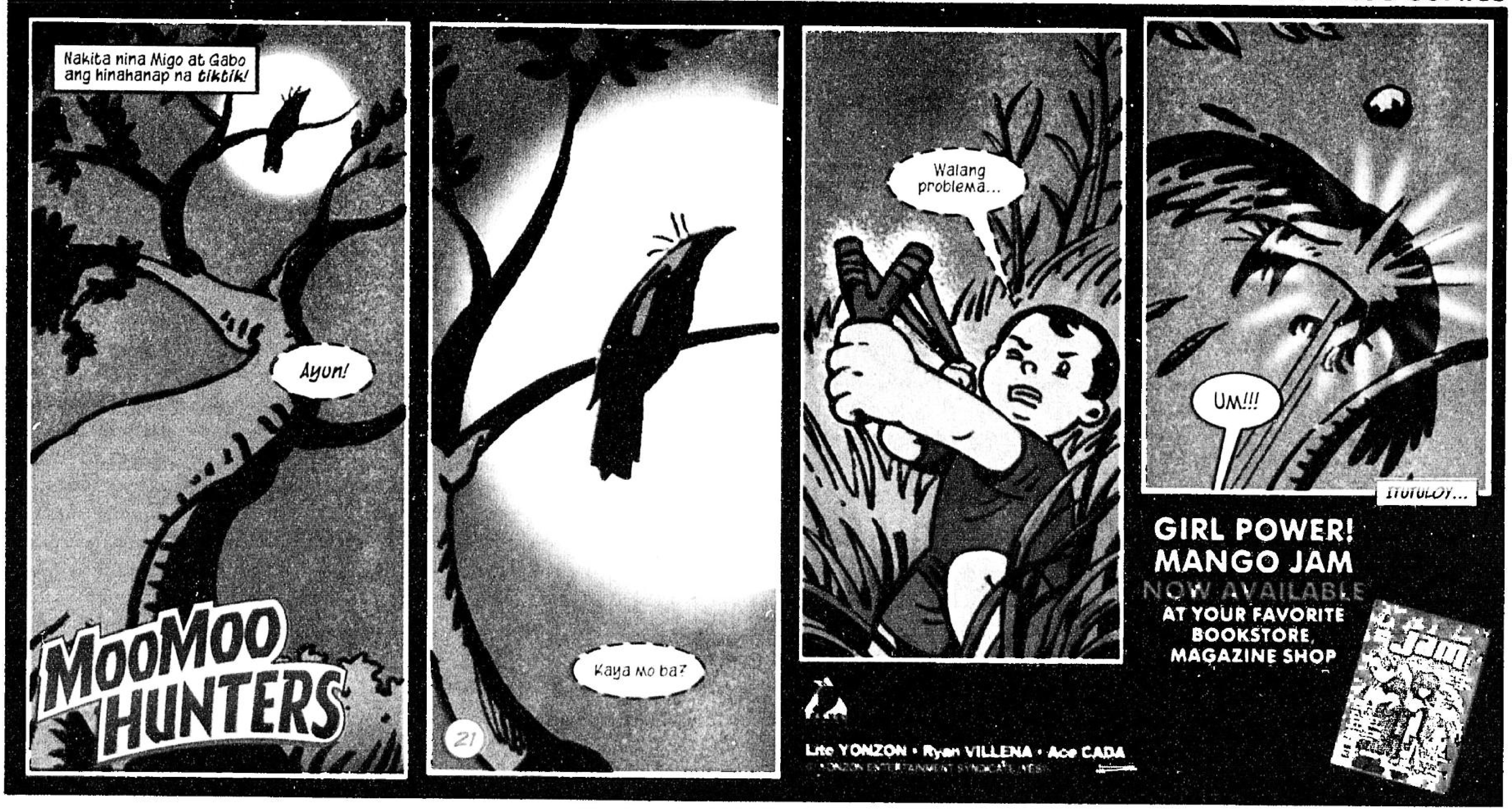
INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA


KAHIT ALAM KO NA MAGANDA AKO, TINGIN KO AY MEJO KELANGAN KO PA DIN NG...
MAKEOVER!
...BALAK MONG PUMUNTA TAYO SA PARLOR, ATE?
AYOKO NGA! 'LA AKONG PERA PARA D'UN!
SO PAANO KA MAGME-MAKEOVER?
ZAP!
SIMPLE LANG.
GAGAMIT AKO NG MAGIC!
SHAZAM!
KAYA BA NG PARLOR ITONG BEAUTY KO?
UM.............AH.......... ..........UM........UM........... AH........UH...........AH.......... AH, E....................AH....UM, TAPOS......UM......
ER.....UM.......AH, E.... ....KWAN....... AH...... ....WOW. Grabe, wala na ang unibrow mo, Ate Wanda!
chester

MOOMOO HUNTERS

BY MANGO COMICS


Nakita nina Migo at Gabo ang hinahanap na *tiktik!*
Ayun!
MooMoo HUNTERS
Kaya mo ba?
21
Walang problema...
UM!!!
ITUTULOY...

Lito YONZON • Ryan VILLENA • Ace CADA

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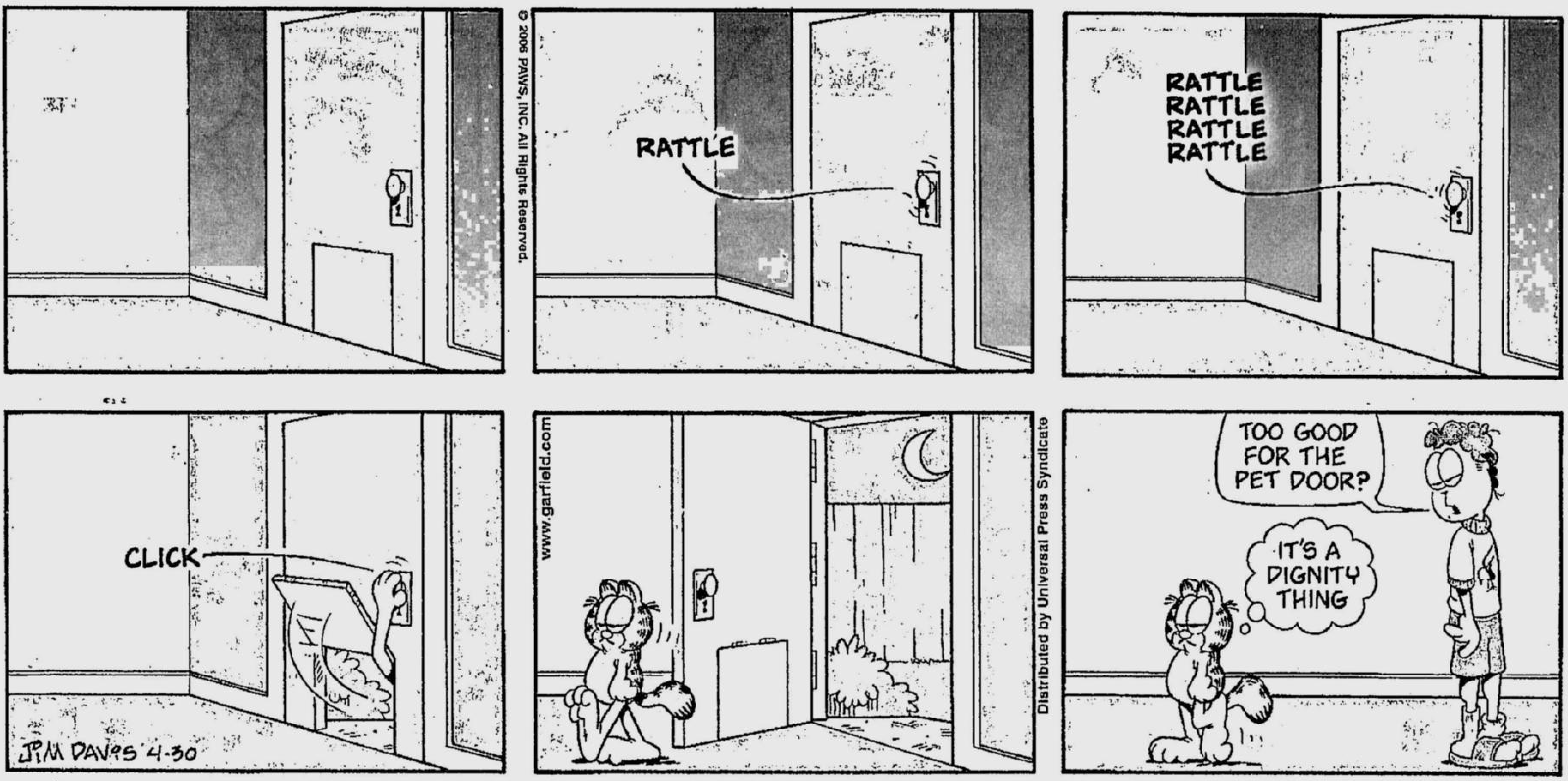
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS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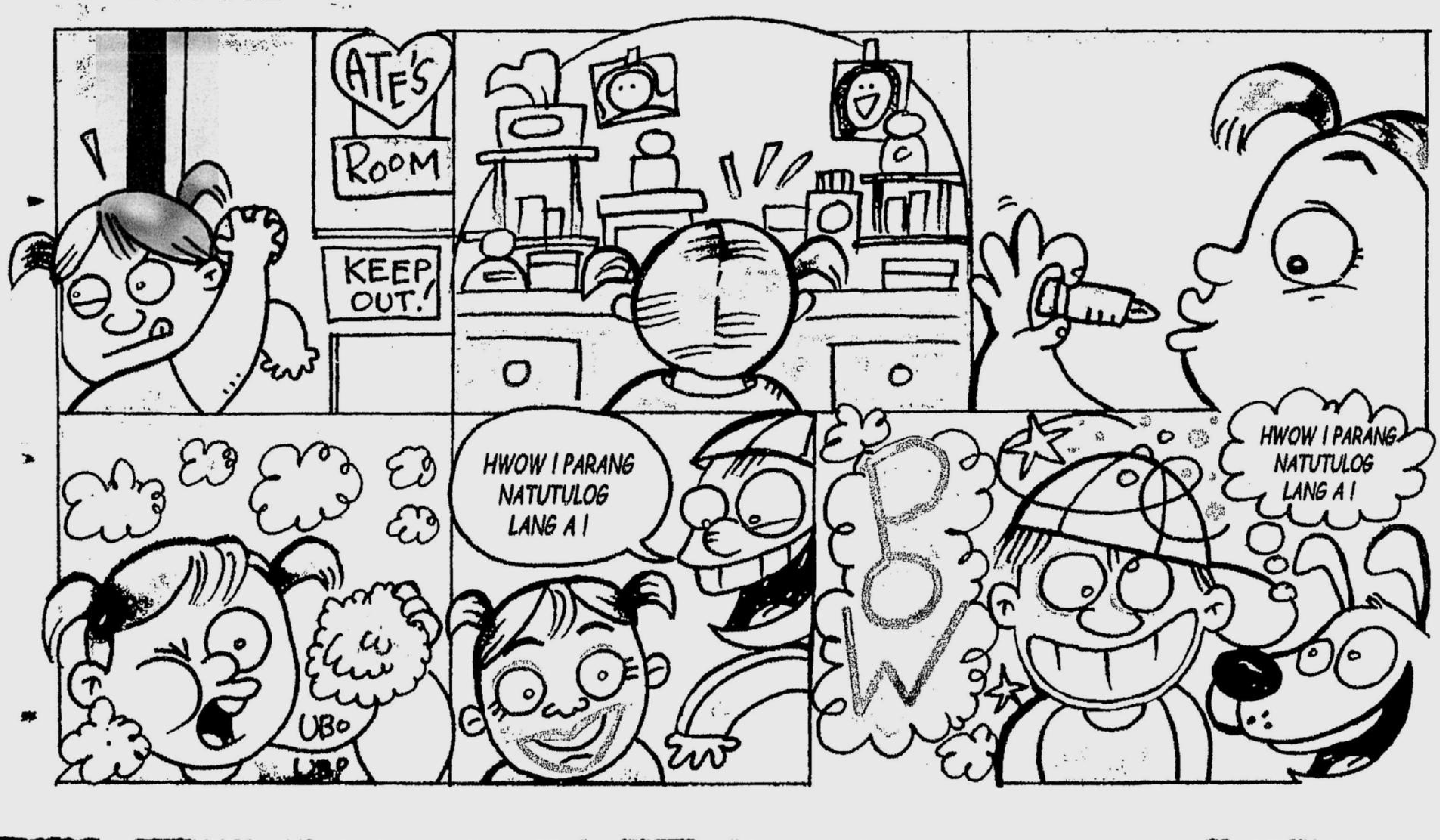
RATTLE
RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE
CLICK
JIM DAVIS 4-30
www.garfield.com
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
TOO GOOD FOR THE PET DOOR?
IT'S A DIGNITY THING

FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


ATE'S ROOM
KEEP OUT!
UBO
UBO
HWOW I PARANG NATUTULOG LANG A!
HWOW I PARANG NATUTULOG LANG A!

April 30, 2006
sundayINQUIRERmagazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

mother nature lays down the law, therefore the law should serve nature,

says this environmental lawyer

Antonio A. Oposa, Jr.'s love for the sea has led him to battle illegal fishers and those who would destroy the country's marine paradise. His weapon of choice? Laws that protect the bounties of the earth

by Ma. Ceres P. Doyo
photographs by Lito Tecson

HERE is one lawyer who says he is not in love with law, not in the way that others wax poetic over legal philosophies and the sheer beauty they find therein.

But then environmental lawyer Antonio "Tony" Oposa, Jr. is not a conventional lawyer. When his Harvard Law classmates picked him to deliver the valedictory address at their graduation, Oposa did not dwell on the law but gave a speech titled "On Friendship and Laughter."

"For me, law is a tool, a thinking tool to guide human conduct," says this precocious lawyer."I was not in love with law when I started off," he adds.

But UP and Harvard law, with a lot of help from Mother Nature, settled in with him. They unmade Oposa's old horizons and broke open new worlds that ere lay hidden. In much the same way, life-altering and life-threatening events in his youth had always forced him to contemplate the crossroads before him.

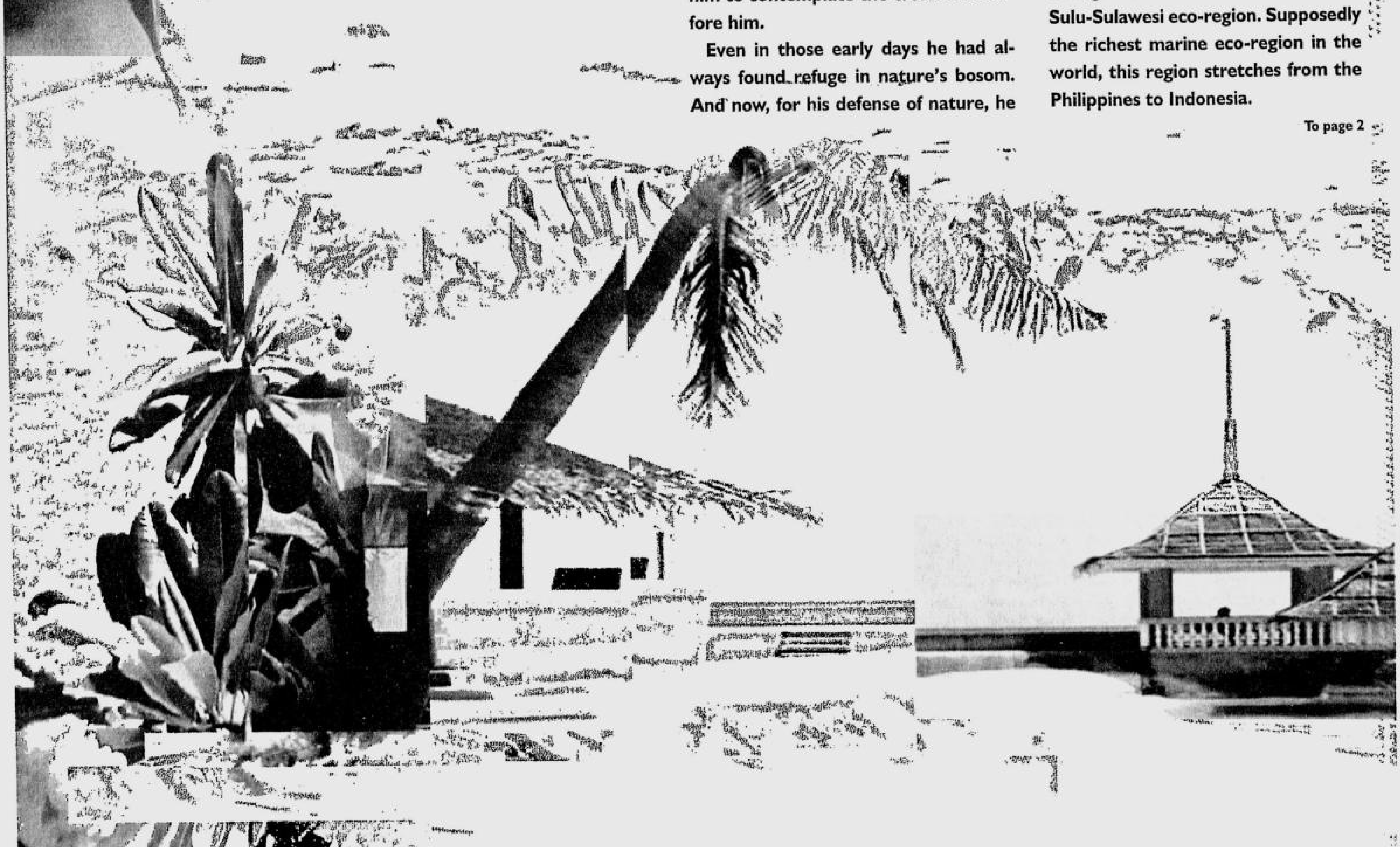
Even in those early days he had always found refuge in nature's bosom. And now, for his defense of nature, he expects to make not just friends, but also enemies.

Three weeks ago, on April 12, Oposa's close friend and partner in the Visayan Sea advocacy was shot several times as he entered his home in Cebu. Elpido de la Victoria succumbed to gunshot wounds the following day. Although the motive has yet to be established, Oposa says it must be related to their campaign against illegal fishing to rehabilitate the marine paradise in the area.

"It was beyond words," Oposa says of the loss. "I sat down with my wife Greely and could not say anything for several minutes."

Oposa is a team leader of the Visayan Sea Squadron, an outreach group of the Law of Nature Foundation which he heads. The "squadron" hopes to preserve the threatened waters of the Visayan Sea. This area is at the apex of the fabled Visayan Marine Triangle that lies at the heart of the Sulu-Sulawesi eco-region. Supposedly the richest marine eco-region in the world, this region stretches from the Philippines to Indonesia.

To page 2



JL Apil's rescue mission, *p.6*

Mona Sulaiman's dream race, *p.5*

Antonio...*from page 1*

A sea battle is continuously being waged, with Oposa's group charging against the destroyers. In March 2004, he led a raid by operatives from the National Bureau of Investigation, Navy, maritime police and Bantay Dagat. The group seized one ton of blasting powder and sent the culprits to jail. Oposa led this same team to serve warrants of arrest to owners of big commercial fishing fleets who were once deemed untouchable. Later that year, he led a special police team in a raid that resulted in the largest seizure ever of blasting powder and detonating devices and the arrest of the leaders of the illegal syndicate.

Oposa pioneered the practice of environmental law in the Philippines and is one of Asia's experts in this field. For his work in advancing environmental law enforcement, Oposa was chosen one of The Ten Outstanding Young Men by the Jaycees. He was included in the United Nations' Environmental Programme Global 500 Roll of Honor.

The waters off Cebu, Oposa's home province, have always been part of his coming of age. But so was fire, the ravages of which, he wears on his body like a birthmark. "They say time heals all wounds, even scars begin to fade," he philosophizes. "And didn't C.S. Lewis say that suffering is the core of all art?"

Oposa was born in Manila 52 years ago. Shortly after his birth, his mother who had the beginnings of cancer, and his father, a doctor, left for the United States. Oposa and his two older siblings were left in the care of their paternal grandparents in Cebu City. While there, his father was prevailed upon to stay as chief of surgery in a San Francisco hospital. It was not until six years later that they returned with three US-born children in tow.

Mischievous and hyperactive

Being the apple of his wealthy grandpa's eyes, Oposa remained in the old man's custody until he reached adulthood. He had everything he could ask for.

In school he was the teacher's pest. "I was not a bad kid, I was just so mischievous and hyperactive," he laughs. It must have been undiagnosed ADHD (Attention Deficiency and Hyperactivity Disorder), he says.Whatever it was, it meant going from one school to another.

He might not have been in love with school but early on, Oposa was already in love with the sea. "My grandfather had a beach property in Bantayan Island off Cebu and I loved spending time there despite the primitive amenities."

Oposa went to De La Salle University in Manila and graduated with a business administration degree in 1975. He was 20, restless and somewhat bewildered. He was also rich.

"I wanted to live poor," he confesses. He's had his share of flashy cars, girlfriends, the good life. Once again he was drawn to Bantayan Island. He was back to basics. "I was like a Robinson Crusoe," he recalls. "And I also had a Man Friday named Undo. We would fish, cook rice in an open fire, sleep on the bare floor." It was a period of introspection.

After a while, he went back to Manila and worked in the Bureau of Foreign Trade and later, in an investment bank. "I thought, I don't want to be counting the money of other people."

Oposa would always heed the call of Bantayan Island. But something else was crying for his attention. "I realized that I had a reading deficiency. Maybe I was dyslexic. I wanted to really know how to read, understand and enjoy words. So I took speed reading lessons."

In 1977, Oposa applied at the UP College of Law and was accepted. Things were going well until 1979, during his third year in the college of law, when a tragic event occurred.

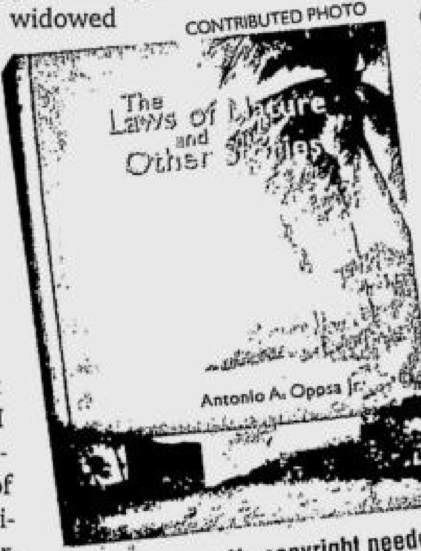
It was the Christmas break and Oposa was home in Cebu. One night he woke up to the sound of crackling flames and the smell of smoke. The house was on fire!

Oposa braved the heat and smoke and rushed downstairs. "I thought, if I die, I'd like people to know I died fighting. I went straight into the fire in order to get out. The door that was supposed to be locked simply opened for me. But my arm and head were on fire and my skin was dripping like wax."

Surgery and skin grafts

Neighbors wrapped him and rushed him to the hospital. After five days at the Perpetual Succor Hospital, Oposa was airlifted to Manila. Burn doctor Alfredo Ramirez attended to him at the Manila Doctors Hospital. "Seventy percent of my body was burned and I had to have skin treatment every day. I went through a series of surgery and skin grafts. By then I had been told that Undo and an American guest had perished in the fire. My widowed grandmother who lived downstairs was able to escape. I cried out to God, whoever You are, why did You do this to me?"

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



No copyright needed: Oposa's book on environmental laws

Oposa started to worry about the effects of strong drugs on his brain. "I did a lot of brain exercise. I memorized long poems. I also did a lot of reflection. I was experiencing a kind of poverty."

With his scars and all, Oposa went back to law school. He organized the UP Law Forensic Society. He even got the competing law fraternities to plant talisay trees in front of the college. He was back to his garrulous self. Oposa graduated in 1982 and passed the bar that same year.

"I've always wanted to work with people, not with corporations," Oposa says. "I did criminal law and mostly pro bono work." He also worked with Sycip Salazar law office for a while.

In 1985, Oposa married Greely Remulla (of the Cavite political clan), an accountant. (They have four children: Juan Antonio, Anna Rosario, Jose Alfonso and Jaime Agustin.) "I sang at my own wedding," he boasts. "While my bride was walking toward me, I sang *'Ikaw Lamang.'*"

The couple settled in Cebu. But soon restlessness set in. "My wife told me to find a specialty. There was one thing I really cared about—nature." He had seen blast fishing and all forms of abuse of the sea.

He consulted UP Law Center's Prof. Flerida Ruth Romero and lawyer Myrna Feliciano who familiarized him with nature-related laws and cases. Prof. (now Supreme Court Justice) Leonardo Quisumbing, whose advice he also sought, got him interested in environmental law.

But all the while, the question in Oposa's mind was, "Who will pay me my fees, the fish?"

In 1988, Oposa got a scholarship to study energy planning and the environment at the University of Oslo in Norway. When he came back he thought of suing the government using the concept of intergenerational responsibility. This meant lawyering for the cause of children and the generations to come in their quest to preserve the environment. "They say, you are either intelligent or you are daring," he laughs.

The Oposa vs. Factoran case (Fulgencio Factoran was environmental secretary then) was going to be a landmark case. "To the credit of Factoran, he called me and suggested that we raise the issue in a forum. He also reduced the number of logging concessions and passed an administrative order banning logging in virgin forests."

Landmark case

But the case was dismissed in the lower court because the judge ruled that children have no personality to sue. The Supreme Court however ruled that children have the right based on "intergenerational responsibility." Oposa says the landmark case is discussed in environmental law subjects all over the world.

One thing led to another until restlessness overtook Oposa again.

With his family, he headed for Harvard for masteral studies in environmental law. It was not entirely a cerebral exercise however. "I reflected on my mortality. God, I prayed, give me another 25 years and you will not regret it."

In 1998 a paper he wrote in Harvard became the foundation for citizens' suits and for provisions in the Clean Air Act and the Solid Waste Management Act.

"When my youngest son Nano was born, I was overcome by the thought, what if I had only six months to live?" He thought of writing a book. Thereupon he informed his clients that he was going to terminate his services. "I gave up all, I even sold some properties to finance my project."

Suddenly he was overcome with doubt. "I was having an identity crisis. In 1999 I went to then Supreme Court Justice Hilario Davide. *Manong* Jun, I said, what am I doing? What am I?" He poured out his heart to him.

Davide's advice: "Continue your book. You are an environmental advocate."

Reflecting on his mortality: "Give me another 25 years and you will not regret it."

"I knew then that I was an environmentalist, using words and the law as tools," declares Oposa whose personal resume describes him as an environmental advocate not a lawyer.

The heart of it

He sat down to write two huge books—"The Laws of Nature and Other Stories" (colorful and easy to understand) and "A Legal Arsenal for the Philippine Environment." No copyrights needed for those who want to publish more copies. He also wrote "Environmental Law in the Philippines."

His love affair with the sea that began in Bantayan Island became even stronger when he discovered the so-called Visayan Sea in 2003, Oposa says. Why, he was always at the heart of it. He converted his beach house into a learning center where kids and adults could learn about solid waste management, coral reef protection and terrestrial ecosystems. He also put up marine and bird sanctuaries.

Because of the tempest arising from the destruction of the Visayan Sea, Oposa is working to establish the so-called maximum sustainable yield (MSY) that would set limits to commercial fishing in the area. His argument: people cannot have everything to their hearts' content and end up with what he calls "tragedy of the commons." "We are all losers that way," he argues.

But even for this committed lawyer, there is a time for work and a time for play. When he's not battling environmental foes, Oposa scuba dives, rides horses, plays tennis, sails, writes and gardens. He also teaches environmental law at UP and the Philippine Judicial Academy and serves as chair of the Philippine Bar Association Environment Action Team.

He continues to serve farmers' and fishermen's groups pro bono and acts as consultant to governments and international agencies. The fish, as he said, cannot pay his fees. ◼

Interested parties may contact The Law of Nature Foundation at thelawofnaturef@yahoo.com.

Oposa (second from right) and his dive buddies on another environmental adventure

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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TRUE IDENTITY

I am saddened by the letter to the editor written by one G. Marquez which the **Sunday Inquirer Magazine** published last April 2, 2006. It was an unfair and malicious indictment of the Philippine Daily INQUIRER for a story on Mark Jimenez which, I believe, was fair, objective and in keeping with the highest standards of journalism.

With nary a piece of evidence to support his insinuation that monetary considerations must have been behind the Jimenez article, Mr. Marquez crucified the writer, as well as the editors of the INQUIRER, through innuendoes and insinuations of wrongdoing.

But I commend the INQUIRER for being forthright in publishing the letter verbatim despite the letter-writer being petty and his failure to appreciate an uplifting story of a man who has rediscovered the right path after being imprisoned in the US. The fact that the INQUIRER allotted space for a letter which should have gone straight into the wastebasket is a testament to the untruthfulness of the allegation.

Mr. Marquez complained that there was no mention of Jimenez's supposed role in the sale of Equitable PCIBank and PLDT under the term of President Joseph Estrada. But surely, such details were not relevant to the general theme of the article since Mr. Jimenez was imprisoned not for any wrongdoing committed in the Philippines, but for infractions he allegedly committed in the US.

If we will go by Mr. Marquez's faulty premise that omissions in stories equate to "envelopmental journalism," then all journalists and their editors will be put under suspicion. Of course, writers and editors remove details not relevant to stories in the interest of not overloading readers with irrelevant information and in consideration of valuable column space.

Maybe, Mr. Marquez, who obviously hates Jimenez (for reasons known only to him), must have been annoyed by the wonderful visual presentation of the article (kudos to the INQUIRER's art department), thus his poison letter. But the fairness and objectivity of the INQUIRER, coupled by the lively way it presents news to us, its readers, are what make the INQUIRER a great read.

To conclude, I just wish that we Filipinos would be able to discard the crab mentality for which we have been known. Mr. Marquez should be told not to be judgmental of people, and to be man enough to reveal his true identity (first name and his address), instead of cowardly resorting to sending his letter via email without the usual complete address.

I, too, am sending this letter through the email but only for its quick transmittal to PDI and with my full address, to prove the point.

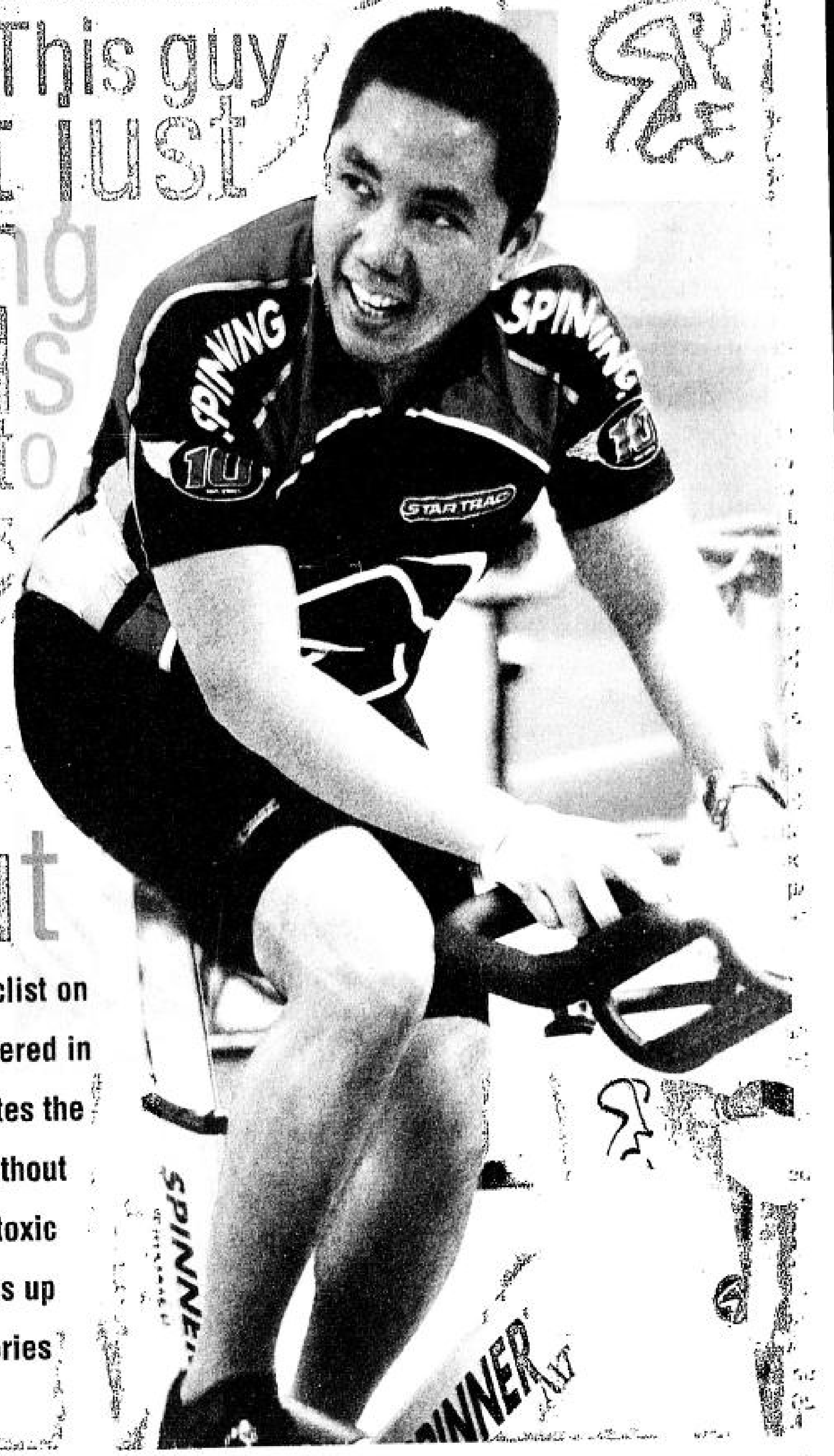
REYNER AARON VILLASENOR
Central Student Council Auditor
College of Political Science
University of Santo Tomas
España, Sampaloc Manila

All in the Game

by Eric S. Caruncho

photographs by August dela Cruz

This guy isn't just spinning his wheels when it comes to an alternative biking workout



An ad man by day and an avid cyclist on weekends, Paolo Mercado discovered in spinning a workout that approximates the rigors and pleasures of biking without the hazards of accidents and toxic fumes. Plus, it just burns up the calories

SIX years ago, avid cyclist Paolo Mercado drove to Morong, Rizal, with his bike strapped to the roof of his car, for his usual long weekend ride to Infanta, Quezon and back.

What he got was the scariest ride of his life.

When he arrived at the prearranged meeting place, he was met not by his usual bike buddies, but by three men with guns. He was being 'jacked. The best he could have hoped for was that they'd at least leave him the bike, so he wouldn't have to walk home. But they took the car, the bike, and him.

When the car drove past a crowded intersection, Mercado attempted to call for help. His kidnappers beat and pistol-whipped him. Next thing he knew, he was lying dazed and bruised somewhere in Rizal: no car, no bike but lucky to be alive.

The trauma might have scarred him for life, but it didn't dampen his enthusiasm for cycling.

A few months ago, Mercado and his wife Dana opened the Loyola Spinning Studio, the country's first group indoor cycling facility along Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City, right in front of their alma mater.

Fitness fanatics

For celebrity hounds, spinning is probably best known as the exercise program that got Oprah thin, which is as close to a Good Housekeeping seal of approval as you can get these days. It was invented by Johnny G., a long-distance cycling nut, who devised a unique stationary bicycle and workout that approximated the feel of real road riding, but with better and faster results. It caught on among fitness fanatics, and fueled by Oprah's glowing endorsement, soon grew into a global franchise with 20,000 Spinning centers worldwide. Mercado's is the first authorized center in the Philippines.

Why spin?

"I'm kinda obsessive-compulsive when it comes to cycling knowledge," says Mercado. "I'm very imbedded in the local cycling community, so while physically I'm not among the elite of my age group, I would say that I have a pretty in-depth knowledge of cycling physiology, and that is why I like the spinning program more than other indoor cycling programs. It's truer to the cycling experience, it was invented by a cyclist and he keeps the movements faithful to what a person does on a real road bike."

Except that it's about 50 percent more effective than real riding, in terms of fitness-building and calorie-burning. Freed from the nerve-racking hassles of dodging pedestrians, cars, dogs and potholes and the deleterious effects of breathing in diesel fumes, spinners are able to concentrate on the workout, without fear of sunburn or a catastrophic traffic collision.

"Some of our coaches are professional athletes, and for the last two months some of them have limited their training to spinning, and they've done very well in their events," says Mercado. "One of them, Kaye Lopez, placed first in her age group in the Clark Duathlon, and she hadn't been doing it for some time. As a cyclist you get a much higher quality workout here."

Better grasp

The Loyola Spinning Studio's other coaches include triathletes Nonoy Jopson, Jojo Macalintal and Ige Lopez, Bing Alto of the David's Salon All Women's Professional Cycling Team and TV host Paolo Abrera. All of them have been certified by the mother organization in Venice Beach, California, and undergo further training in the program from time to time. In fact, Mercado chose to hire cyclists over aerobics instructors because they have a better grasp of the cycling experience, and are able to bring that into the studio.

But spinning isn't just for "real" cyclists, he hastens to add.

"It has attracted dropouts of group aerobic classes because while beneficial, aerobics requires people to be

To page 4

"Spin doctor" in his Loyola Studio

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Econo Pack (S40s, M36s, L32s, XL28s)	2 points
Jumbo Pack (S60s, M54s, L48s, XL42s)	3 points

II. Submit the required EQ Dry Baby Diaper wrappers together with the following information: sender's name, complete address where you want the premium item/s delivered, baby's name and age, telephone and/or cellphone numbers, signature of parent/guardian, and the desired premium item, written on a piece of paper and enclosed in an envelope. For hard-to-find locations, it would be best that landmark information of the address given be provided for easy reference.

III. Entries can be mailed or hand carried to:
"EQ Dry Travel Buddies" OR "EQ Dry Travel Buddies"
JS Unitrade Merchandise, Inc. P.O. Box 14280 Pasig City
31st Floor, Raffles Corporate Center
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

IV. Choose from any of the following collectible baby bag designs with the required EQ Dry Baby Diaper label points:

Premium Items	Points
Baby Travel Bags: (available designs) A. Pink and blue color combination B. Green and yellow color combination	10 points each
Animal Face Bags: (available designs) C. Cow D. Bear E. Penguin F. Dog	8 points each

V. The chosen premium item/s shall be delivered by LIBCAP Express to the address submitted by the consumer. In the event that the entry sender is not present during the time of delivery, a member of the sender's household may be asked to sign a proof of delivery and receive the premium item/s in behalf of the entry sender.

VI. Delivery lead times for the premium items are as follows (commencing upon receipt of "delivery orders" by the courier):

a. Metro Manila: within 2 to 3 days
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VII. Premium items will be delivered until 60 days from end of promo period.

VIII. Consumers may join as many times as they want.

IX. Prizes are non-convertible to cash.

X. Entries thru mail are qualified 15 days after the promo period.

For more information, please visit www.jsunitrade.com

Happy si Baby, [illegible]

LIBCAP

Per DTI - NCR Permit # 0813 Series of 2006

This guy

...from page 3

somewhat coordinated, and with some movements, you really need to know how to dance. The people who need it most, the clinically obese, often are the ones who are uncoordinated or who can't take a high impact movement, so they limit themselves to the cardio machines in the gym—the treadmill, stationary bike, and the experience of that is, it's boring."

To begin with, the spinner isn't your dad's old stationary bike now rusting away in the garage. It's a precision piece of machinery (as well it should be considering the six-figure tag price, per) designed to put you in the proper riding position, with about 60 percent of your weight on the saddle and the rest on the handlebars, so there's less chafing on your prostate (or labia, if you're female). The fixed gear (no freewheeling) on the 40-pound flywheel means you have to keep pedaling, while a user-adjustable dial allows you to adjust the resistance to mimic varied terrain.

But even with its technological advances, it's still basically a stationary bike. What really defines spinning is the program, not the bike.

"What spinning does is, it takes the safety of a cardio machine, and the motivating and friendly atmosphere of group exercise and molds it into one," says Mercado. "That's the magic of spinning. It's easy to learn, it's low impact and you can always exercise at your own pace."

In a spinning session, the coach leads the group through a 40-minute workout, after individually fitting each member to his bike, i.e. ensuring correct saddle height, handlebar extension, riding position for his body dimensions and riding experience. Using appropriate background music (very important for that heroic "Chariots of Fire" vibe), the coach leads the group through warm-up, build-up, high-intensity intervals, and cool-down. Because the resistance is user-adjustable, people of varying fitness are able to work out together. At the end, you should feel just like Lance Armstrong crossing the Tour de France finish at the Champs Elysees in Paris, both hands doing the "V for victory" sign.

"It's a management of emotions," says Mercado. "The unique thing about spinning is, it actually gets deep into personal motivation. That's because the movements in spinning are very simple: there are only three hand positions and about five core movements, and after you've learned that, if a person has been through about five spinning sessions, the cueing gets shorter and shorter. What Johnny G. has developed is a way to talk to participants, cuing not so much

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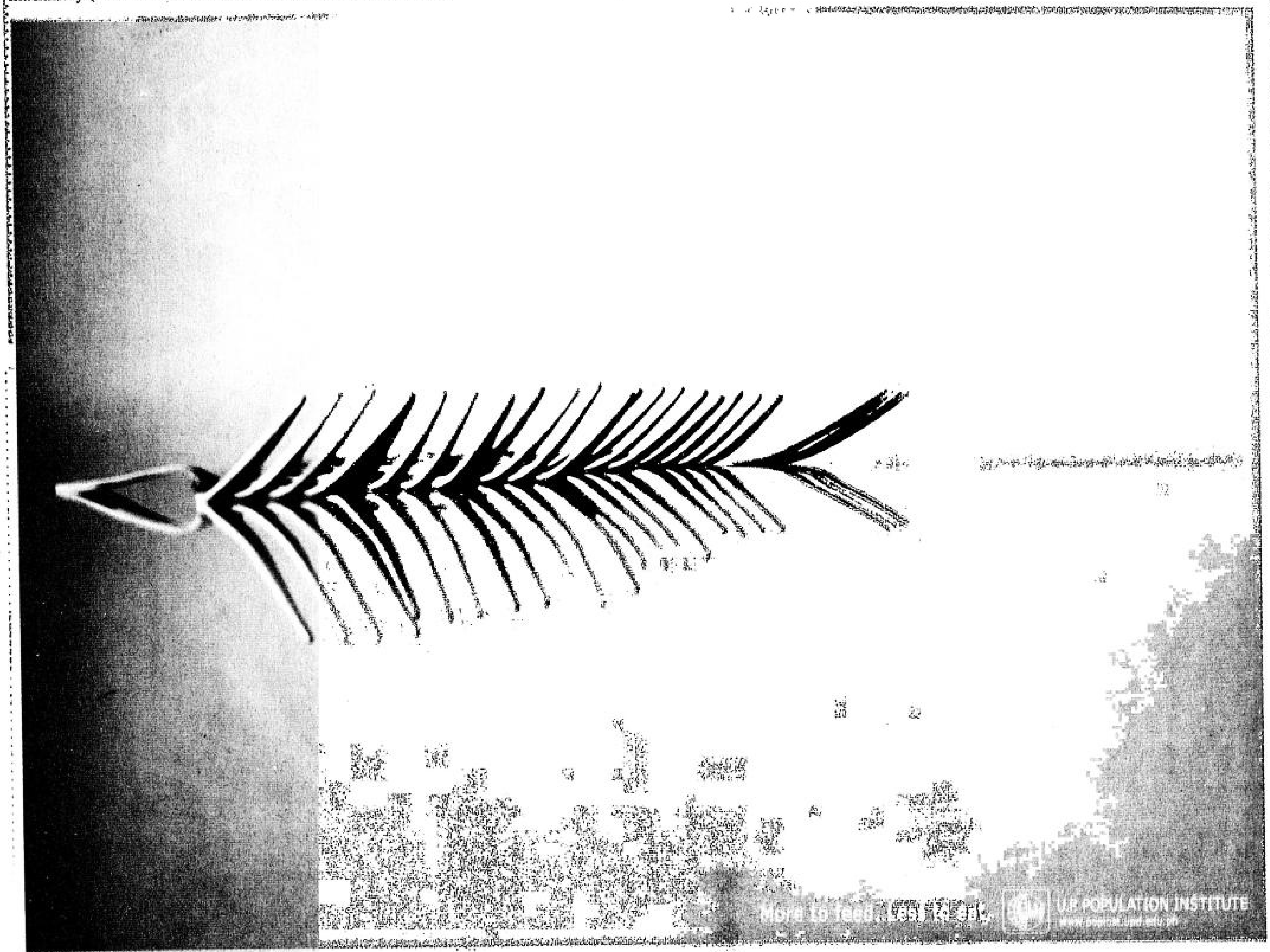

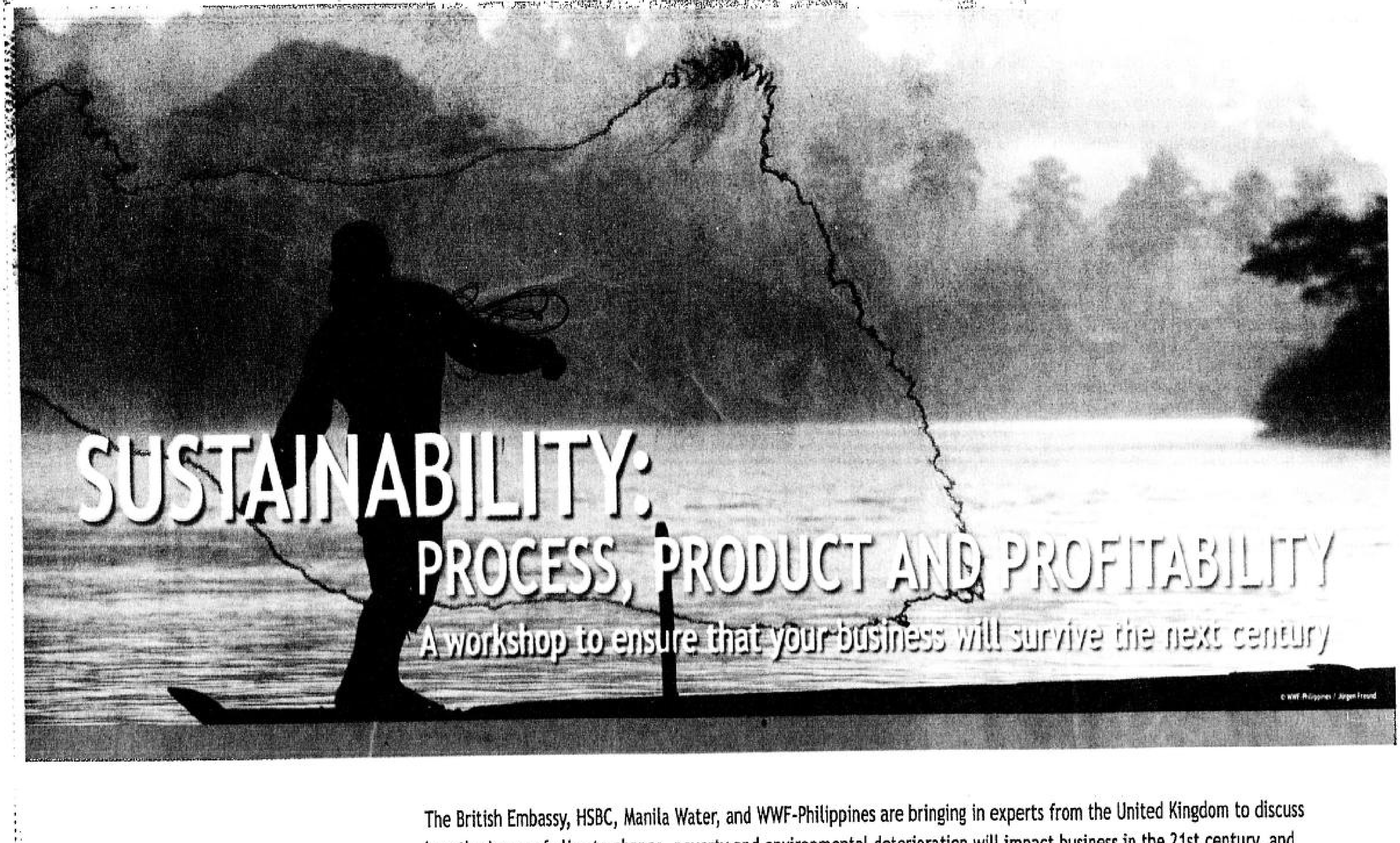
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Twists of Fate

text & photograph
by Maria Congee S. Gomez

Asia's fastest woman during the '60s leaves the past behind as she catches up with the future of Philippine sports

Mona Sulaiman earned three gold medals for the country until doubts about her gender sidelined her. Today, she dreams of a foundation that can fast-track the career of young Filipino athletes

ONG before Lydia de Vega and Elma Muros became local legends in track and field, there was Mona Coco Sulaiman, once described as the fastest woman in Asia. Three golds each in the 100- and 200-meter dash and in the relay, and a bronze on the shot put at the 1962 Jakarta Asiad in Indonesia, made the North Cotabato native a household name in the mid-1960s.

But like Nancy Navalta, another record-breaking sprinter, Sulaiman's intense career was brought to a precipitous end by controversies surrounding her gender. Reports had it that the muscled sportswoman declined to undergo official medical tests and had to be pulled out of the Philippine team. Other rumors ascribed her refusal to take the test to her being genetically male after all.

More than 40 years later, the roving coach of the Philippine Sports Commission sets the record straight.

"That was absolutely a lie," declares Sulaiman of the rumor. "Its source was a chaperone of another local athlete, who wanted to make things worse, and whom I wanted to finish off (in Tokyo) in 1964."

Gender issue

She recalls: "I was nursing a bad case of flu at that time and decided to forego the medical check-up because of my health condition." She was surprised that her refusal was blown-up as a gender issue, Sulaiman adds. "As I understood it, it became big news back home, shocking thousands of my fans." It might have made a few media careers, she says bitterly, "but did they ever care about the deep hurt it had created?"

The gender flap nipped in the bud what could have been a glorious sports career and Sulaiman has kept her counsel since then, staying away from interviews and being wary of publicity. "*Pag gusto ko ang tanong, sasagutin ko*, (If I like the question, I'll answer it)," she tells this writer.

Her world, she recounts, was turned upside down by the rumor. "Not a day passed that people did not ask me about that gender issue. The wife of a Visayan local official then once came up to me to ask about my true (sexual) identity, and I was so aghast that I dared her to allow her husband to sleep with me overnight."

The sense of intrusion became so overwhelming that Sulaiman felt forebodings of physical harm. She decided to pack a pair of .45 cal. guns on her waist to protect herself. Confused, she started doubting even her athletic prowess. Did people seek her out because she had brought honor to the country, or were they only after her as an object of curiosity? "Nothing seemed concrete," she recalls feeling then.

Plagued by self-doubts, Sulaiman eventually lost interest in sports competitions and dropped out of the scene. She took various jobs after college: a checker at the Manila Appliance Center for two years; a staff assistant in Guam for a local film producer, a bit player in 1978. She appeared in 18 movies under Junar Productions, taking second lead roles at the urging of actor-producer Jun Aristorenas and wife, Virginia Soliman.

Second lead

Among her memorable movies, says Sulaiman, are "Sta. Fe," "The Panther," "*Ako'y Lupa*," and "Interpol Malaysia." Another movie project, "Asiang La Luma" with Nida Blanca

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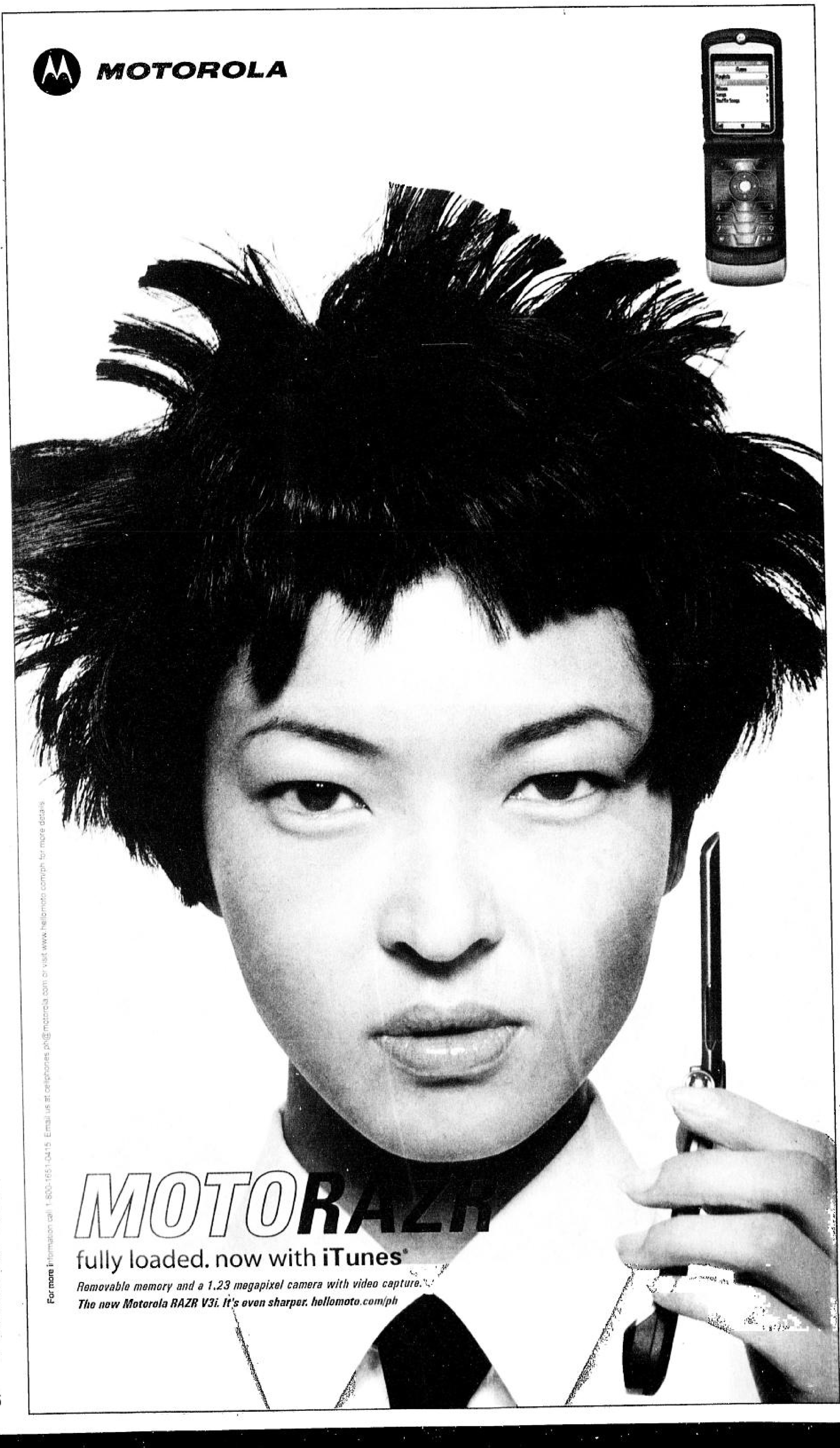
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In Memoriam

by Melvin Gascon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

This cager made HIS LAST SHOT while trying to save lives

UST varsity cager John Lee Apil had always been regarded as a hometown hero for bringing basketball honors to Calamagui, Cagayan. He was on a similar rescue mission when he was electrocuted in a resort on Black Saturday

JL with girlfriend Pethereen Aggabao the night before he died

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SOLANA, Cagayan—It was one hot summer night last year but the town plaza here was packed with basketball fans from villages all over town. It was minutes before tip off of the much-awaited game in the annual inter-town invitational basketball tournament.

Suddenly, fans roared as John Lee Apil emerged from among the players and put on his No. 4 jersey.

John Lee or JL, at 6'2", was to play point guard for the Solana quintet. He suited up for the team even as he had barely rested from an 11-hour trip from Metro Manila.

For the entire regulation and three overtime periods, JL was on the hard court. When the dust cleared, he led his team to victory against the visiting team from Tuguegarao City.

Taking on a "rescue" mission was a familiar role for JL, and one he played throughout his lifetime—up until his death on April 15, Black Saturday.

The 21-year-old JL was electrocuted as he tried to help two boys stunned by faulty wiring inside the Cortes Farm and Resort in Barangay Maddarulug, Solana, Cagayan.

In an Ibanag town where basketball is considered a religion, where lanky boys learn the basics of the game on dirt roads under scorching heat, JL had always been a hometown hero.

Through the years, every time he stepped on the court for a game, basketball fanatics in Calamagui village and Solana town felt a surge of pride and hope.

That feeling would be rewarded, as JL would always lead his team through the eliminations and to the championship round. He would often bring home the coveted Most Valuable Player trophy of the league.

Bright future

JL had looked to a bright future ahead of him.

His mother, Ines Abig-Apil, said JL's life revolved around basketball. He always looked forward to playing in the professional league—the Philippine Basketball Association, just like his relative, Tuguegarao native and Barangay Ginebra pivotman Romel Adducul had done.

Even JL's relationship with his girlfriend, Pethereen Aggabao, 23, bloomed on the basketball court. He was the Solana team's star player while she was the team's manager.

At the time of his death, JL was a member of the reigning champion of the Private Schools Athletic Association, the Varsity Team A of the University of Santo Tomas (UST), where he was a fourth-year Commerce student.

He was recruited by UST after scouts were impressed with his performance as a high school varsity player at the Saint Paul University in Tuguegarao City. Last year, he played for the Growling Tigers in the University Athletic Association of the Philippines.

After his UAAP stint, JL was preparing to suit up for one of the teams in the Philippine Basketball League after his graduation in October, when his dream was zapped on the night of April 15.

Investigators said the grounded light post where JL held on had apparently been unchecked by the resort management.

On the night he died, JL was with Aggabao, some friends and relatives to celebrate the end of the Holy Week break.

JL was electrocuted when he touched a grounded light post at the poolside. He hád gone to the poolside to check on Howell Alamo, 21, and Ivan Lee de Asis, 13, who were thrown to the ground by the jolt of electricity on the wet spots around the pool.

Electric charge

For about seven minutes and in full view of resort guests, a shuddering JL desperately tried but failed to pull away his right hand gripping the light post.

People tried every means to help him, but every time they approached, they either got jolted or they would feel the electric charge, according to Dr. Sofia de Asis, who had accompanied JL's group to the resort.

"It is only now that I know how it is to lose a child. It's too much to bear," said JL's mother, Ines. The family, she said, is out to seek justice for her son's death.

The pain of losing a loved one is unbearable. Just recalling it is painful enough, said Aggabao. But JL, she recalled, seemed to have premonitions about his death on that day.

Over lunch, and in front of his mother, JL had asked Aggabao: "If I die, what would you do?"

"I jokingly slapped him repeatedly," said Aggabao.

During practice with his Calamagui basketball team on the afternoon of April 15, he had told team members to continue playing championship-caliber basketball, even when he is no longer around.

"He told me to take charge of the team and continue doing the training routine that he taught us, even when he's gone," said his 18-year-old brother John Mark, who plays center for the team.

From the practice, JL went home to ask his mother's permission to join the swimming party that night. He sat on his mother's lap, kissed her on the cheek and said: "Mama, I love you, I love you, I love you!"

He then smiled and said goodbye.

That was the last time Ines would see her son alive. JL was buried at the Solana municipal cemetery on April 25.

People who had come to JL's wake at their house in Calamagui had nothing but good words about him. His sense of discipline, humility and kindness stood out.

Good man

"He had no enemies because he showed respect for his fellow players," his brother, John Mark, said. "Even those whom he once fought on the court shed tears when they came to visit. I realized how good a man my brother was," he added.

JL had come home for the Holy Week break with a mission. He had vowed to bring back his brother who had not come home the past weeks. He also wanted to spend time with Aggabao after a long absence. He wanted to be with the Calamagui team when it began preparations for this year's inter-barangay summer basketball league.

On the morning of Holy Wednesday when he arrived from Manila, JL went straight to John Mark and succeeded in convincing his brother to reconcile with their mother. He also found time to help his team prepare for the grueling summer league..

For his last homecoming, JL made sure he accomplished his mission like he always did. ◘

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Solid Places

by Cecille Tuble, RC

What love embraces

If we are to know the depths of joy, if we must truly love, then we must learn to accept the visitations of sorrow

Joy and sorrow are sisters; they live in the same house. Macrina Wiederkehr

THERE is a pervasive attitude in our world today, which seeks to deny anything that would remind us of our mortality. We run away from wrinkles and thinning hair with the same fervor we display in trying to escape the more invisible diminishments in our lives. This is most evident in our postmodern pathological denial of the inevitability of suffering and the rightful place of sorrow in life. But if we are to know the depths of joy, if we must truly love (which is our most difficult and ultimate task, according to Rilke), then we must learn to accept the visitations of sorrow.

This reminds me of a little story:

It was supposed to be just another routine prenatal check-up. The young mother was on her ninth month, only a week till full term. It was her second child too, a much prayed for and long-awaited one. Her eldest daughter, a precocious 6-year-old, had been bugging her parents for a baby sister, and she was finally getting her wish. "Beatriz," that was the name they had chosen. But the visit turned into confinement: apparently the mother's body was all primed to deliver, but the baby was not quite ready to come out yet. They had to wait a few more days. The labor and delivery turned out to be a breeze, and she delivered a beautiful baby girl. It was all routine.

There were disturbing signs, however. The other nursing mothers in the rooming ward had gushed at how quiet her daughter was, while theirs squalled lustily, but the mother was a little uneasy. Her tiny baby took only a little milk, and would just whimper softly. On the day they were supposed to come home, the pediatrician noticed that little Beatriz was very ruddy, which was disquieting since both her parents were fair-skinned. And so another consultant was called, and soon tests were made. At this point, things unraveled quickly for the bewildered and shocked parents: there was something terribly wrong with their newborn daughter, and the doctors suspected a blood disorder and a viral infection. She was also jaundiced. A blood culture was ordered, and since the hospital did not have the facilities for it, the father had to rush to another hospital to have it done. It was 2 a.m. by this time. Back in the hospital, Beatriz was having convulsions because of her high fever. Her mother remembers the scene well: "It is so terrible for a mother to see her own baby suffer like that, and to be helpless about it. All you could see were doctors and nurses surrounding her, just this moving, frantic wall of white coats and uniforms… I couldn't see her anymore. It is the most awful feeling in the world, to know your child is in danger and not even SEE her… the memory burned that image forever in my brain." A different sight greeted the father, when he returned to the hospital. He saw his little daughter, now in the neonatal intensive care unit, with assorted tubes attached to her tiny body, her eyes blindfolded to protect them from the photolight therapy. He took one look at his baby, and broke down and cried.

ILLUSTRATION BY LA MISTADES

The initial shock and horror at this turn of events gave way to a long, equally painful vigil. The blood culture took five days, and until then (the doctors said), they must wait and pray. Family and friends rushed to the hospital, but there was really little they could do or say. For what words can they speak to make any sense out of the suffering of an innocent baby? And what else can they do but relieve the parents of some of the practical details of a hospital confinement? The weight of a powerless, painful waiting for the fate of their child, and the struggle to find meaning out of the utter senselessness, was theirs alone. They clung to each other, and to their faith. She refused to leave her baby's side, and when her blood pressure soared and she was banned from the sterile area, she waited outside the door everyday, praying. He sought refuge in the hospital chapel, sometimes falling asleep there, his 6'0" frame squeezed in the narrow pew, one arm clutching the back of the pew as if it was a lifeline, like a man lost at sea.

When the blood results came back, it was discovered that Beatriz had polycythemia, which means her blood was "too much and too thick." She needed partial exchange transfusion round the clock. She also had klebsella ozaenae, a viral infection that proved resistant to the antibiotics that she was being given, and so a new round of more powerful drugs was started. The days stretched with an awful, surreal, slow-mo quality: the father would visit her in the morning before he went to work, and her IV would be in her foot, and when he returned in the afternoon, it would be in another part of her body. Her veins were so tiny they kept collapsing. It broke his heart every time.

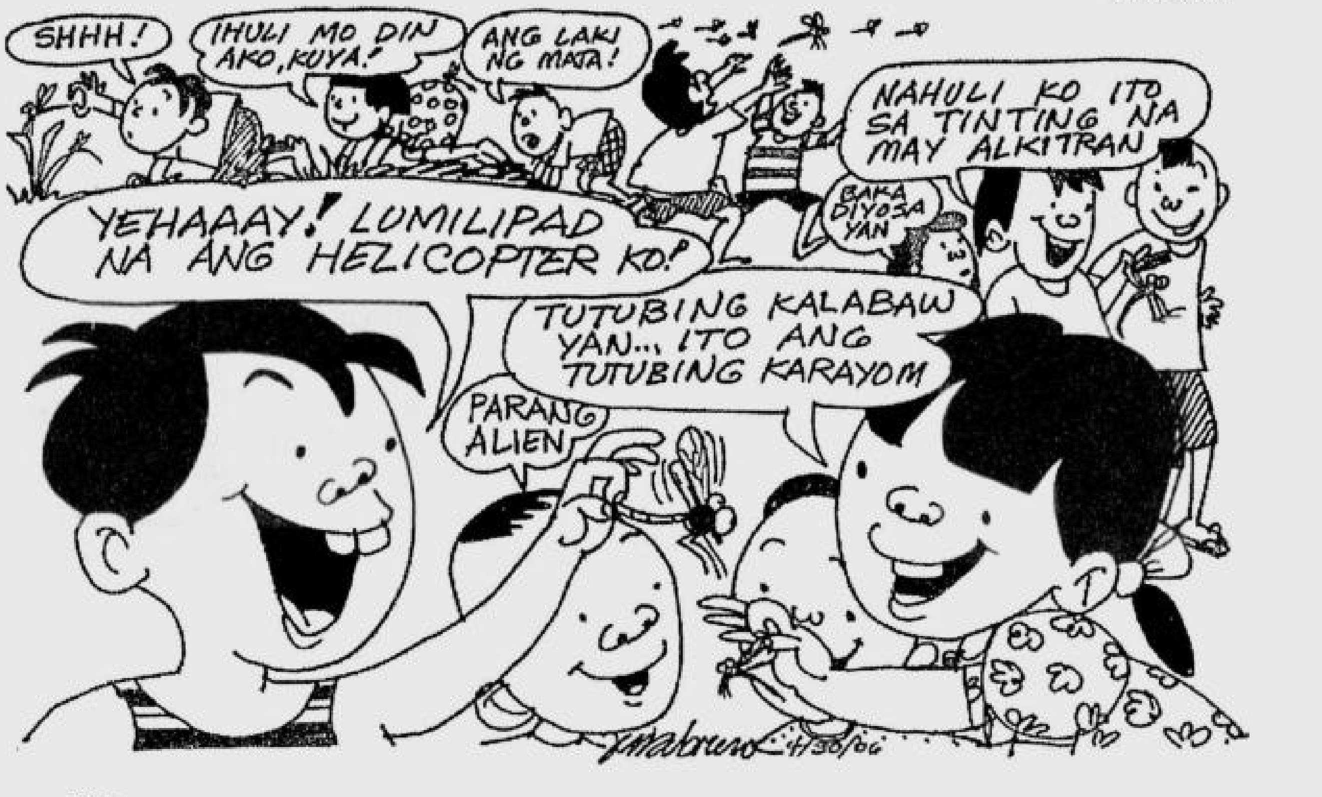
Still, they kept their faith. After one of their baby's convulsions, the mother wept as she told me what had happened. After a moment, she quietly, painfully said: "Do you know what her name 'Beatriz' means? It means 'Bearer of joy'… I know that even now, she is living up to her name." Only love can understand such words, and only faith can give the courage to see beyond love's present suffering.

After nearly two weeks in the neonatal intensive care unit, Beatriz was declared out of danger. She was finally brought home, with much collective joy, relief and gratitude, and baptized the very next day. Last Easter she came to the Cenacle for the Easter Vigil Mass. When I saw her hopping and toddling about, clutching her unlit Easter candle and chortling happily like the healthy 1-year-old that she is, I cannot help but remember all that she, her parents and family had gone through. Her birth and her brush with death is a little Easter story, I realized. Joy and sorrow are truly sisters, and love embraces them both.

Pinoy Nga!

by Jess Abrera

Tutubi


SHHH!
IHULI MO DIN AKO, KUYA!
ANG LAKI NG MATA!
NAHULI KO ITO SA TINTING NA MAY ALKITRAN
BAKA DIYOSA YAN
YEHAAAY! LUMILIPAD NA ANG HELICOPTER KO!
TUTUBING KALABAW YAN... ITO ANG TUTUBING KARAYOM
PARANG ALIEN
4/30/06

Asia's

...from page 4

and Pepito Rodriguez, fizzled out. There were also offers to do TV commercials and a flight stewardess job for Philippine Airlines, says the former champ, but they didn't work out.

She tried her hand in small ventures—as a supplier of Mindanao goods, manager of three beer gardens in Pasay City, and a proprietor of a mini-grocery. Only the grocery remains in operation.

Shrugs Sulaiman: "I easily get fed-up with running a business. I can't stay long enough to see it grow. Perhaps my heart still hankers for sports, where I truly belong."

To indulge herself, she joins athletic events on her own, bagging a gold each in the shotput and discus throw events at the Asian Veterans' Championship Meet in Bangkok, Thailand, last year. "Nothing short of what I could call my legacy," she confesses.

She's also found time to travel, spending her savings to visit pineapple magnate King Parker in Hawaii, another friend in San Francisco, and a colleague in Malaysia. Sulaiman relishes as well her closeness to the Marcoses, who once gifted her with a 30-cc Honda motorcycle.

Golden landing

Indeed, the small-town girl has come a long way from the Cotabato Central Elementary School which she ably represented when she was seven, landing a gold in the 100-meter and 200-meter dash with a time of 13 and 20 seconds, respectively. From there, the young Sulaiman graduated to the inter-scholastic meet, the national open, the district, provincial and island-wide competition in Mindanao.

When she was 13, Manila-based track and field officials spotted the budding athlete at an inter-class meet in Lingayen, Pangasinan. After being convinced to come to Manila to try the circuit, Sulaiman sought athletic scholarships to be able to earn a degree in Management at the Far Eastern University. Between studies, she competed in the 1960 Rome Olympics.

Although Sulaiman failed to land any honors in Rome, she came home, as she describes it, "several times richer in experience." From US champion Wilma Rudolph, Sulaiman learned to improve her running techniques and discovered how to put her 5'8, 130-pound frame to best advantage. She also learned to combine her long strides with breathing and speed techniques. Largely self-taught, she incorporated the techniques into her training regimen. Such diligence earned her a double victory in the 1962 Asian Games in Indonesia and a slot in the country's team to the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

Her inclusion in the Tokyo event sent big sponsors on a race, too. San Miguel Brewery pitched in for Sulaiman's six-month training at the University of Oregon. Tapped as her official trainers were university track and field coach, Bill Bowerman and Bro. Iking Gonzales. Local shoe brands Elpo and Spartan helped her hurdle Portland's inclined roads.

Through it all, Sulaiman remembers being buoyed by only one thing—doing the country proud once more. She could feel the rousing hopes and the optimism from Filipinos back home and she was ready to fulfill their expectations.

Lowest point

And then the medical test came up. Unable to take it because of illness, Sulaiman was pulled out abruptly from the roster. The resulting rumors and doubts about her gender were easily the lowest point in her life, she says.

The only consolation she had, recalls Sulaiman, were the frequent visits from young American boxers Joe Frazier and George Foreman. "Aside from consoling me, Frazier wanted to meet the mestiza-looking Josephine dela Viña (who won a bronze in the discus throw at the 1962 Jakarta Asiad.) He wanted me to act as their go-between," she says.

Taking up sports seriously became improbable, after she sustained a broken left kneecap from a road accident in 1988. But she does manage a walk-jog-walk along Mindanao Avenue before she heads home to Montalban, Rizal, where she has been sharing a home with longtime partner, Noemi and her two grown-up kids, for 15 years now.

Sulaiman also has to contend with an incipient case of diabetes, for which she received P25,000 worth of medical assistance from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. She's given in to age, says this former athlete, but she still banks on her strength, determination and experience to keep her going.

Pauper state

The rumors about her gender hardly bother her now. Her main beef these days is the pauper state of former athletes and the country's indifference to them. *"Ang tawag nila sa amin, limot na bayani, di ba* (Well, what can you expect? They call us forgotten heroes, right?)" The monthly P15,000 they used to receive has long been scrapped from the budget, says Sulaiman. The same fate might befall the monthly P5,000 each for 20 athletes who have brought home gold, silver or bronze, she adds. It's a good thing she has occasional coaching stints for which she gets P3,000, says Sulaiman; otherwise, she could hardly make ends meet.

A source of comfort these days is the Mona Sulaiman Foundation, a project she has been mulling over for two years now, to help young athletes get free education under an athletics scholarship. The foundation, which will be located on the outskirts of Manila, will have its own oval track, school, living quarters and excellent facilities where 100 young recruits can prepare for international competitions.

It remains a dream, she admits, as she has yet to write the proposal and outline the financial support she needs. "The support of private companies and individuals is crucial. And so is the role of former athletes who will oversee the sports training of the young recruits."

Sighs Sulaiman: "Some people have consigned us to oblivion. Truth is, we could still prove our worth and are aching to be back in action."

This guy

...from page 4

movements but personal motivations and emotions. Coaches can really talk to people about their goals, help them visualize what they want to do, cue them on the physical aspects."

With the appropriate verbal cues, the workout becomes psychological as well as physical.

"Spinning is very much like running a play," says Mercado. He should know: he met wife Dana during their Ateneo days when both were in Tanghalang Ateneo. In fact, the couple decided to start the spinning studio partly so they would have a project to work on together.

"Running a place is not new to us because we're used to stage management, carrying things around, etc.," says Dana, who comes from a theater family background: her grandparents are stage veterans Lamberto and Daisy Avellana, her parents are painters Allan and Ivi Avellana-Cosio.

"That's the story of myself and my wife," says Mercado. "I love to ride and she can't even balance on a bike—but we spin together and we enjoy the method together."

Mercado's father was the late ad man Tony Mercado, who founded Basic Advertising with Minyong Ordoñez. In 1999, just before his death, Mercado senior entered into a partnership with the French advertising agency Publicis. Today, Paolo's current day job is as general manager of Publicis Philippines. Now 35, he has been riding for 15 years. Like many cycling enthusiasts, he owns more than one bike, in his case, a road bike, a triathlon bike and a commuting bike that he rides once in a while to the office.

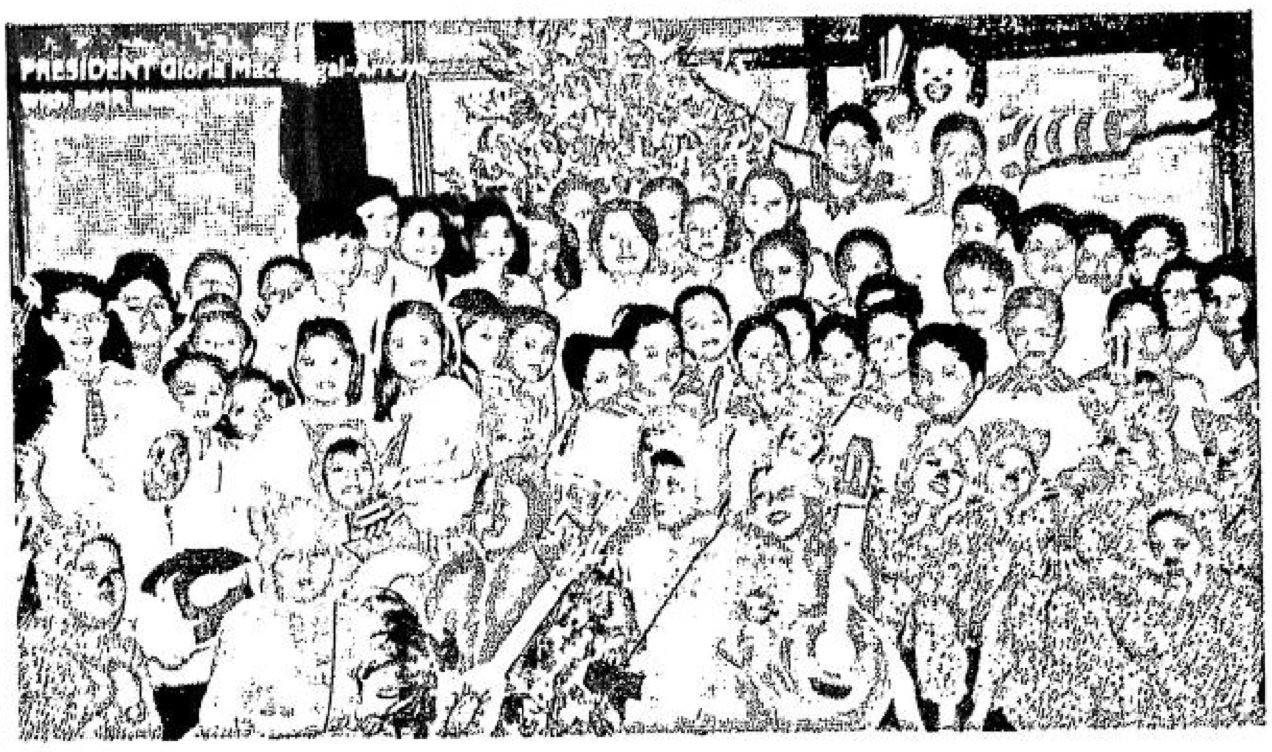
He opened the Loyola Spinning Studio, he says, partly because he was bitten by the entrepreneurial bug, partly so he and Dana could have a shared project, and partly because it feeds his continuing passion for cycling.

"We dedicate ourselves to the spinning method but also to cycling as a sport, so we can take it from a very user-friendly beginners' approach to a highly advanced cycling technique," he says.

The Loyola Spinning Studio is located at 2/F Xanland Plaza, 323 Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights, Quezon City. For inquiries, call or text 0917-858-SPIN.

Non-readers down to zero thanks to McDonald's Bright Minds Read

SHOWN are Dr. Domalanta, George Yang, PGMA, Usec. Boransing, and Kenneth Yang.



PRESIDENT Gloria Mac[illegible]gal-Arroyo

MCDONALD'S CHARITIES' READING INItiative called Bright Minds Read (BMR) successfully produced "zero nonreaders among the 4,200 pilot students" in the National Capital Region (NCR) in school years 2003-2005 and reduced the level of nonreaders among 907,213 students in 6,948 classes from 40 percent to 6 percent since its inception in 2002.

These results were formally revealed at the Bright Minds Read Fund Raising Launch with the theme "A Public-Private Partnership: Improving Beginning Reading for Filipino Grade 1 Pupils" held March 23 at Malacañang.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo lauded McDonald's Charities in establishing BMR with the Department of Education-National Capital Region (DepEd-NCR) headed by Dr. Teresita G. Domalanta, Regional Director. BMR was created in support of Republic Act 8525's Adopt-A-School Program which aims to make every Filipino child a reader.

During the launch, McDonald's introduced its BMR new partners. They include the United Print Media Group which will help communicate BMR messages through its member publications, League of Corporate Foundations Inc which committed to fund 800 BMR kits in the next 2 to 3 years, Makati Princess Urduja-JCI (Jaycees) which will help in tapping local government units to support and adopt BMR, Petron Foundation, the first to adopt BMR in its beneficiary schools, PNCC Skyway Corporation which will provide space in their booth for BMR donation boxes, and DDB Philippines as partner for strategic communications.

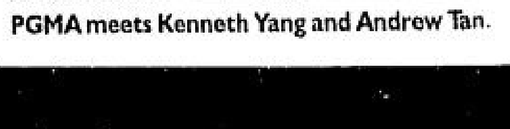
"We are truly happy to welcome these companies into the Bright Minds Read Program. These new partnerships will make a positive difference in the lives of our young beneficiaries. Their help will ensure that more Filipino children will learn to read towards a brighter future. We hope there will be more companies and organizations following their footsteps," said McDonald's Charities president Kenneth S. Yang.

BMR was created to address a 2002 DepEd-NCR survey indicating that 4 out of 10 first graders are non-readers. On the same year, a BMR pilot study was conducted on 4,200 grade 1 pupils in 14 schools. At the end of SY 2003, 68 percent of grade 1 pupils can read sentences and answer questions about what they read while 89 percent have improved their comprehension skills. For SY 2004, the students' reading skills posted an astounding 81.52 percent mastery. As of SY 2005, BMR achieved its target of zero nonreaders with all 4,200 pupils reading with comprehension.

Among all the 14 division in the NCR, all the 527 classrooms in Caloocan City funded by Caloocan City are now using the BMR materials funded by the local government. In addition to the 70 pilot classes in the NCR. Public schools in Baguio, Cebu, Iloilo, Dumaguete, General Santos City, Lipa City and Kidapawan City in Cotabato have now adopted the BMR technology.

McDonald's Charities and its partners are working hand-in-hand to take the program to other parts of the country with high incidents of non-readers in all 17 regions nationwide by 2008. Should you want to help bring BMR to more children in need, contact Zonito Torrevillas at 0917-8208123 o zonito.torrevillas@ph.mcd.com.

McDonald's brings more smiles to Filipino children across the country with programs like Bright Minds Read and Baha Bulilit under the Ronald McDonald Hous Charities, a charity arm supported by th world's number one quick service restaurant chain providing high-quality product at good value.



PGMA meets Kenneth Yang and Andrew Tan.

Stunning Bejeweled Sensations

They say that when one is sublimely happy, their eyes sparkle like glistening diamonds. And rightly so, as there isn't anything quite as mystifying as staring into the multi- hued reflection of a precious gem. It's tantalizing and hypnotic, and flames the desire in the hearts of many.

So imagine the splendor one would feel if the rarest of gems studded the hottest of our modern day contrivances? Imagine a stunningly slim Motorola V3i encrusted with diamonds, emeralds, sapphires, and rubies. What a vision that would be!

Well, thanks to **Motorola**, **Shu Uemura** and **Smart Infinity** there's no need to imagine. The stylish and noteworthy brands partnered up once again to stage the irrefutably glamorous and glitzy affair, **Bejeweled**.

Heralding the launch of Motorola's awe-inspiring V3i and Shu Uemura's adorable faux eyelashes, the event saw the emergence of the dazzling one-of-a-kind creations of haute joaillier **Carissa Oledan-Coscolluela**. Commissioned especially for this endeavor, Carissa Oledan-Coscolluela designed the unique precious-stone appliqués for the 4 Motorola V3is and faux lashes that were to be awarded that evening. Her creations are unique in the entire world and exclusive only to the Philippines.

The 4 glittering V3is were bestowed titles to ultimately exemplify their bejeweled adornments. The **Vert** V3i was adorned with 1 carat of diamonds, emeralds & blue & yellow sapphires. The **Trilogy** Motorola V3i was festooned with 1 carat of diamonds, rubies & sapphires. **Blush** was decorated with 1 carat of pink sapphires, and **Arctic** was encrusted with 1 carat of diamonds.

The winners of that evening veritably reflected the glamour and elegance of being bejeweled. Decked out in their bejeweled best, the awardees were gifted with the Motorola V3i that best complimented their look. Ms. Marivic Pineda was awarded the Vert V3i, as Ms. Margaux Osmeña was given the Blush V3i. Mr. Rick Yupangco was gifted the Trilogy V3i, while the Ms. Ruffa Gutierrez-Bektas was awarded the Arctic V3i.

The evening was truly one of radiance and mystique, bridging timeless sophistication with contemporary mobile technology. Bejeweled had guests enthusiastically enthralled by the glittery treasures and sincerely enjoying the feeling of being bewildered and beguiled by it all.

TRILOGY - Motorola RAZR V3i phone adorned with 1 carat of diamonds, rubies & sapphires

VERT - Motorola RAZR V3i phone adorned with 1 carat of diamonds, emeralds & blue & yellow sapphires

BLUSH - Motorola RAZR V3i phone adorned with 1 carat of pink sapphires

ARCTIC - Motorola RAZR V3i phone adorned with 1 carat of diamonds

Mr. Rick Yupangco was gifted the Trilogy V3i

Ms. Marivic Pineda was awarded the Vert V3i

Ms. Ruffa Gutierrez Bektas was awarded the Arctic V3i

Ms. Margaux Osmeña was given the Blush V3i

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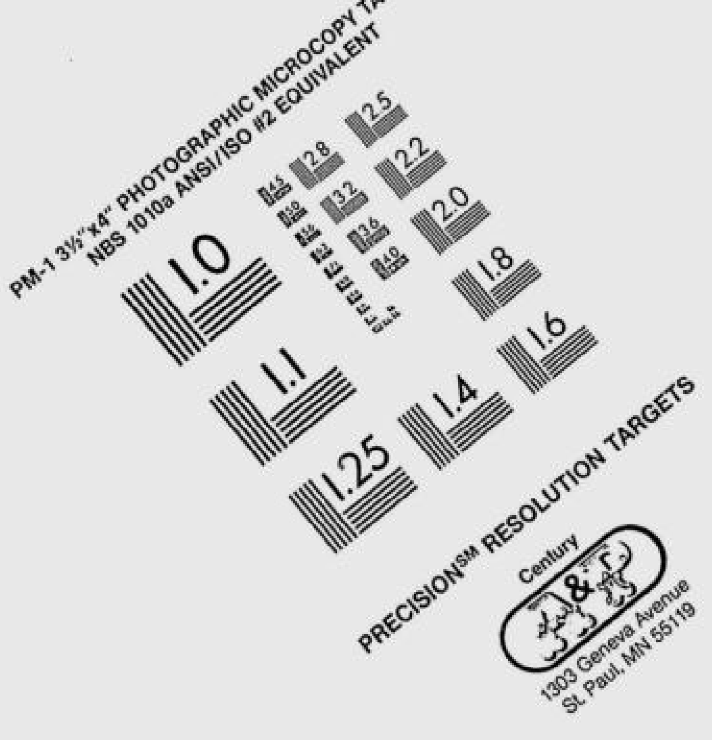
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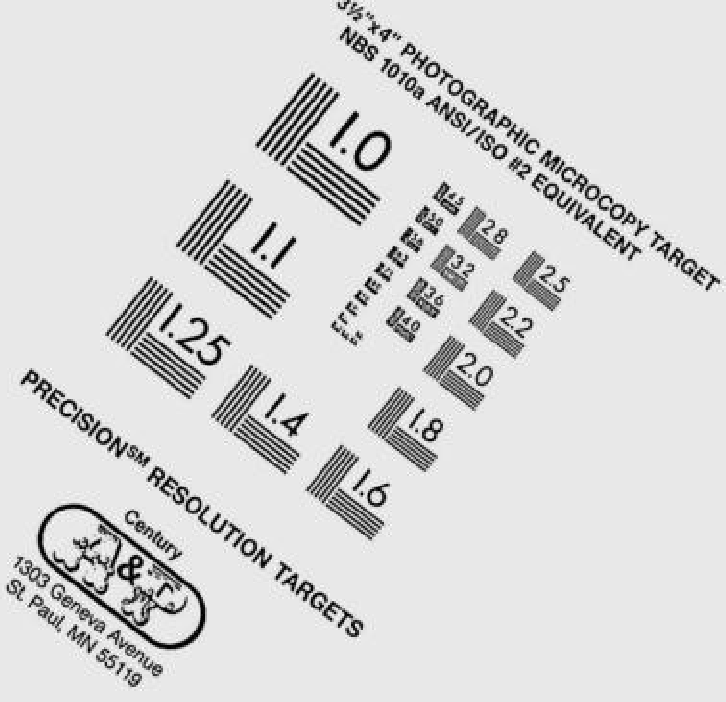
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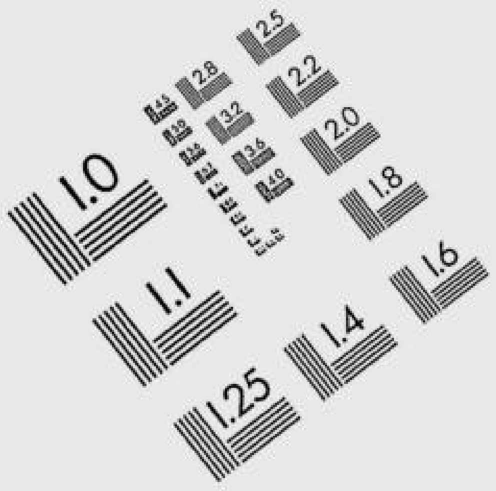
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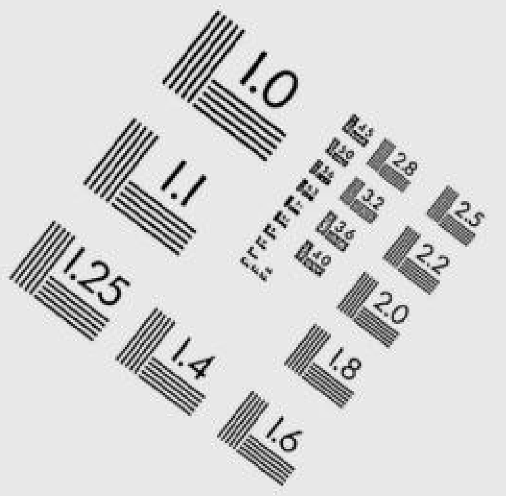
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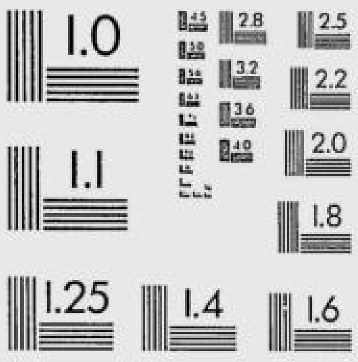
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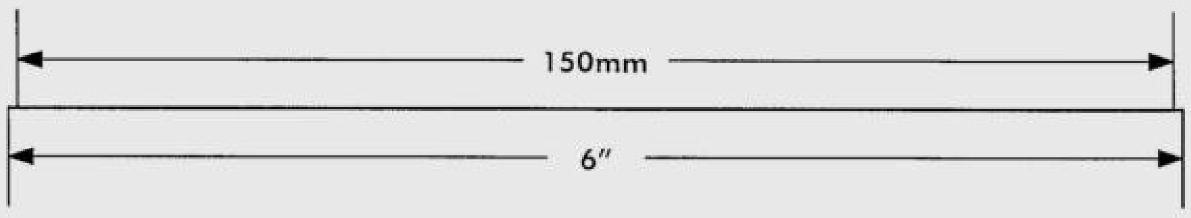

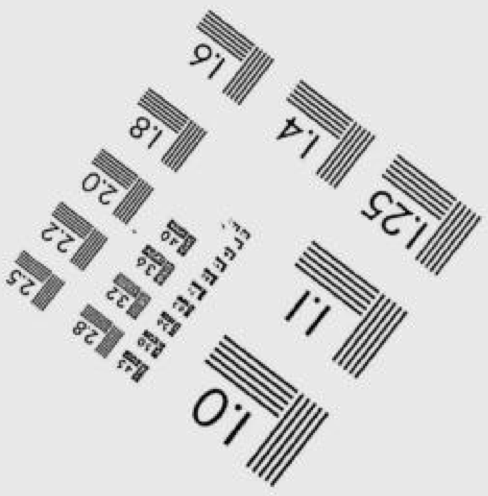
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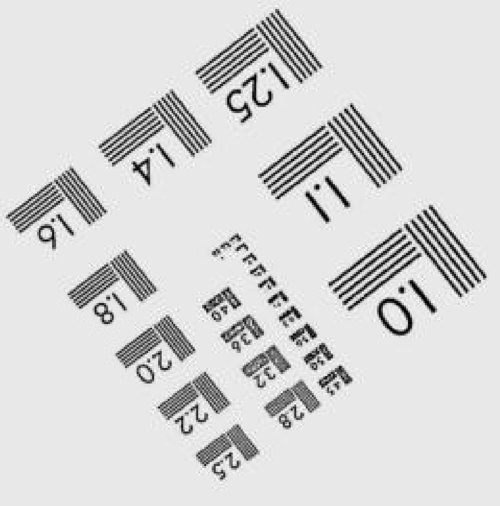
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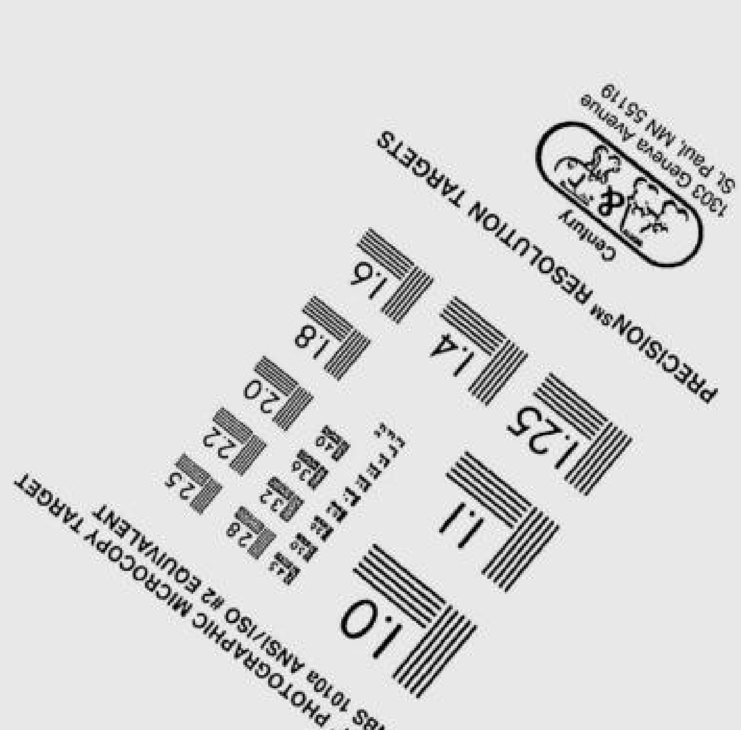
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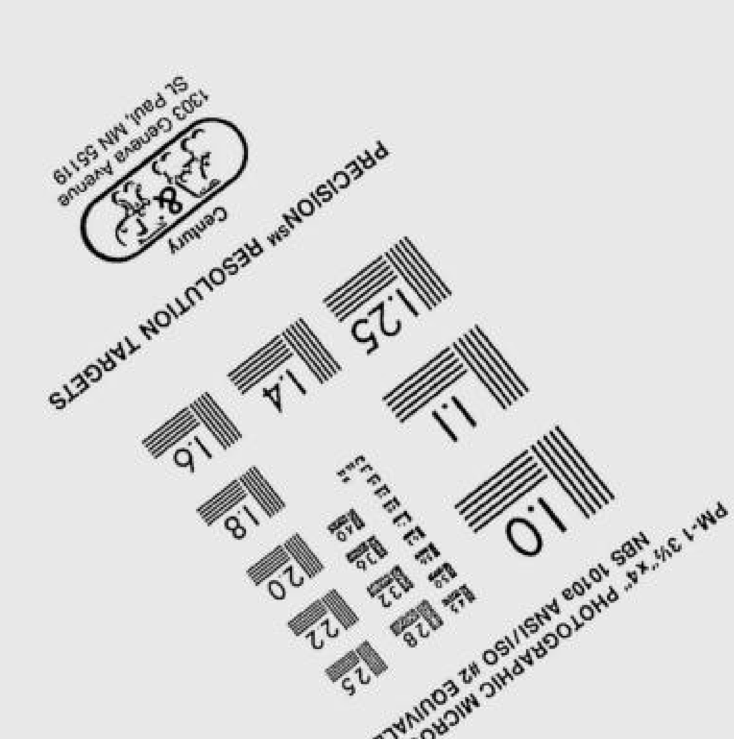
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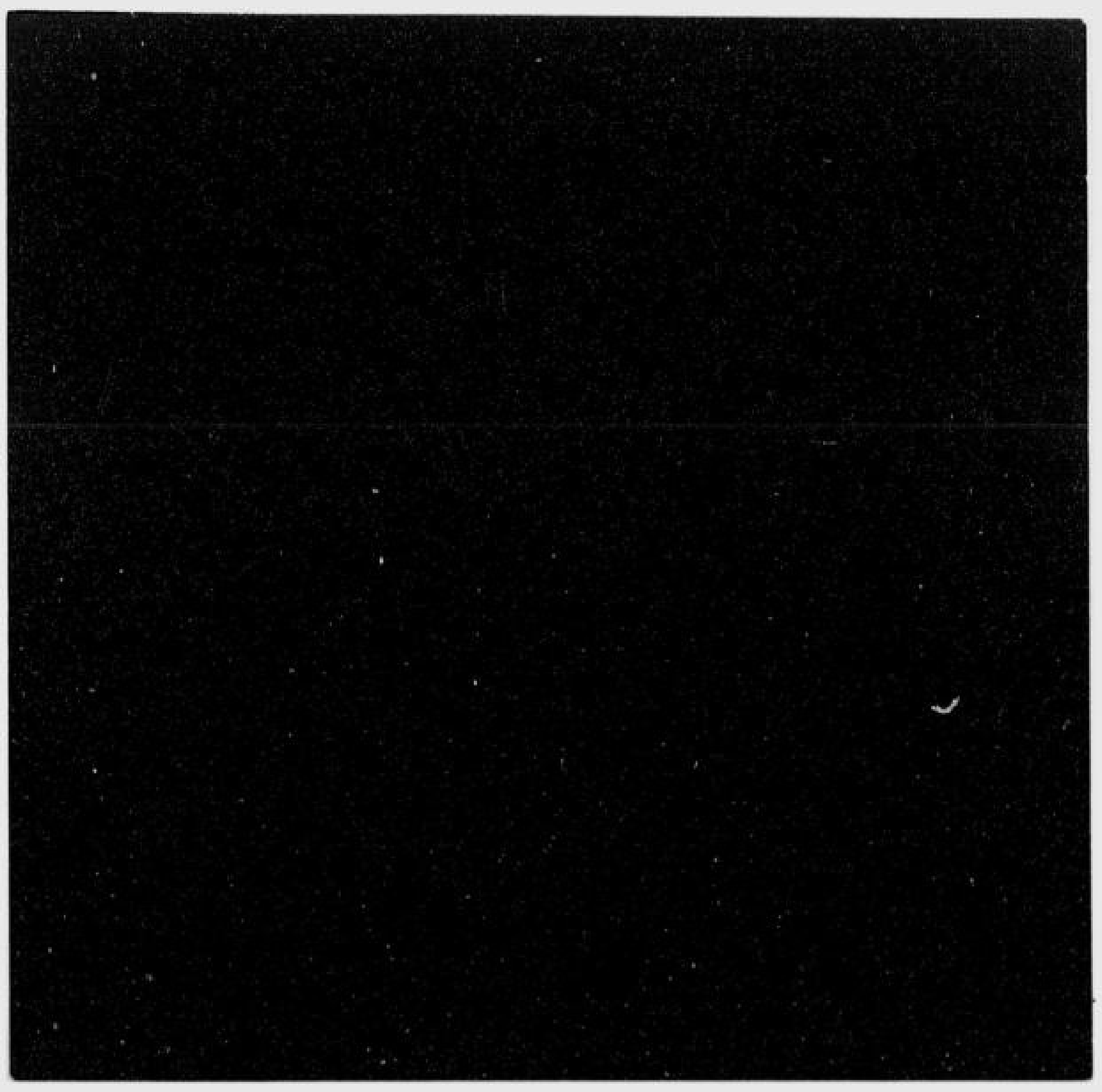

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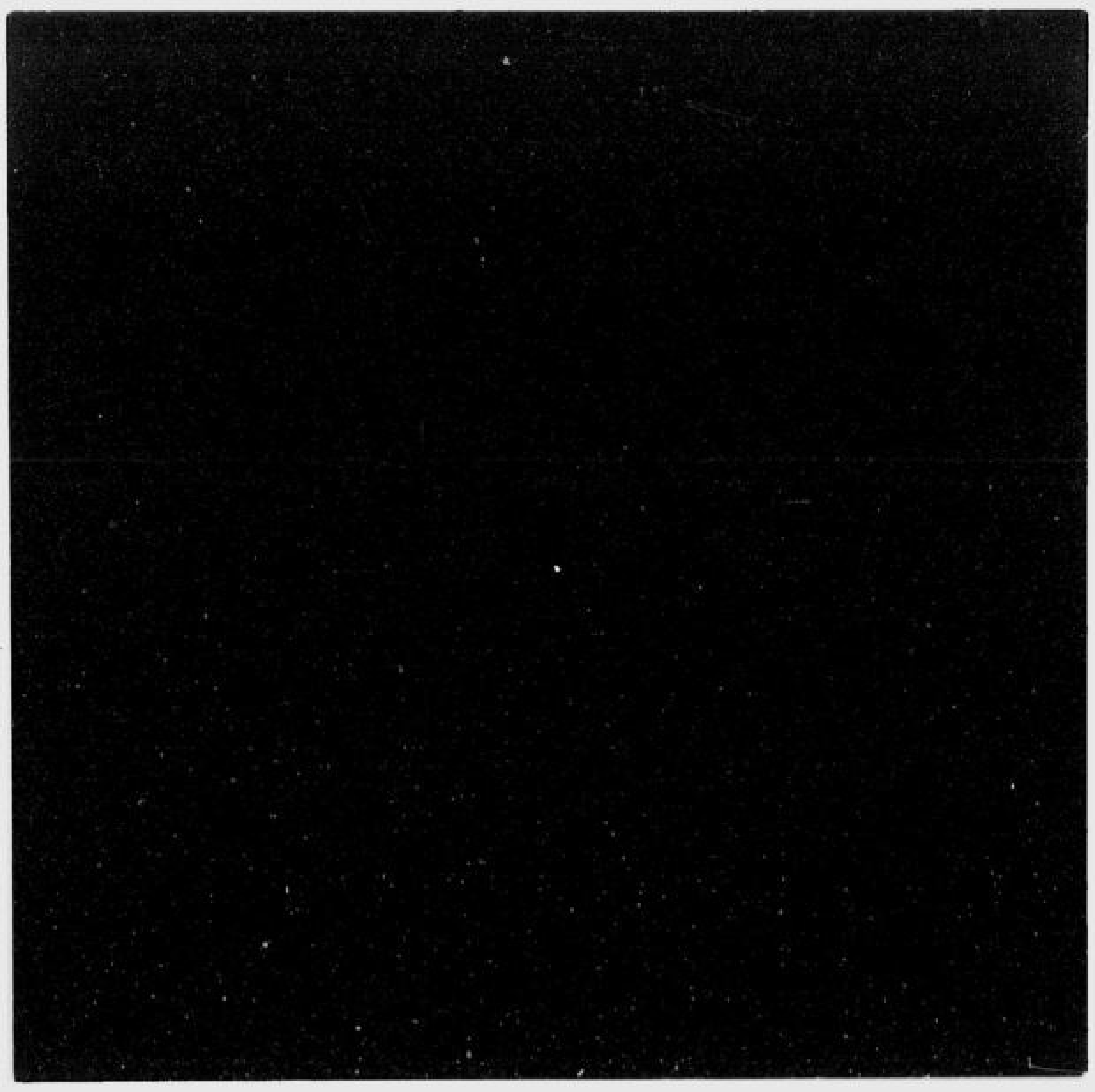

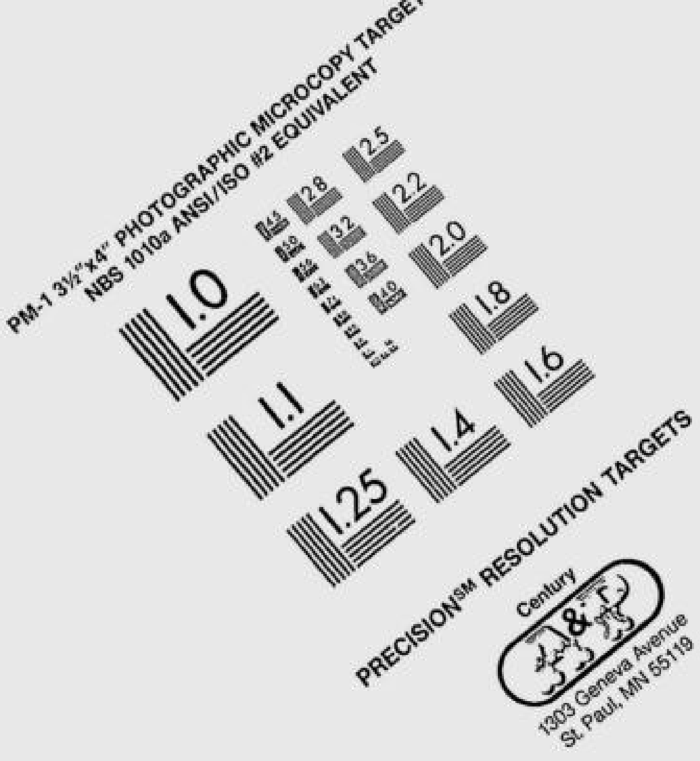
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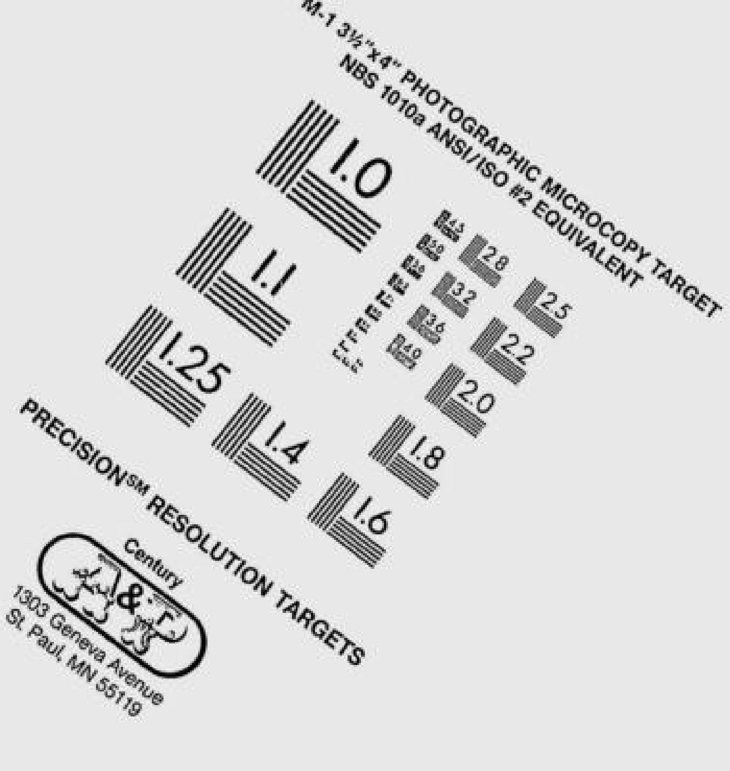
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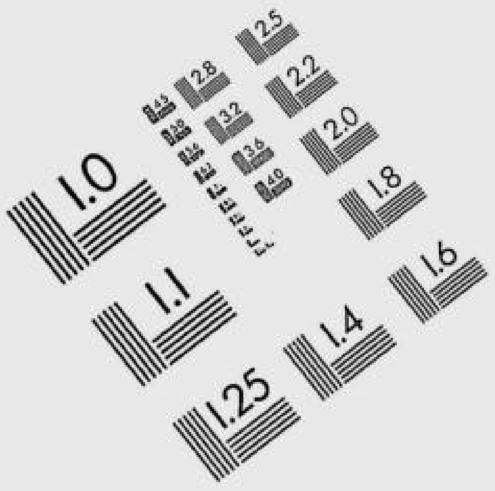
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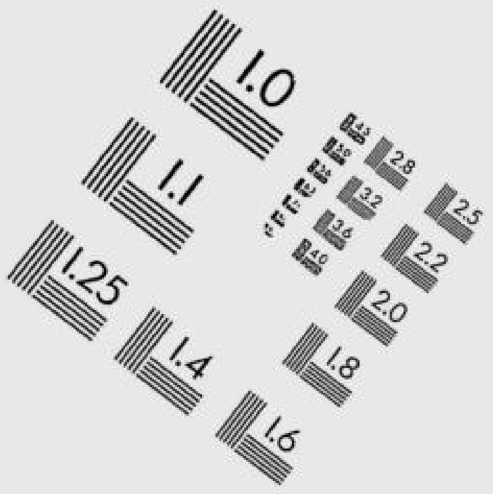
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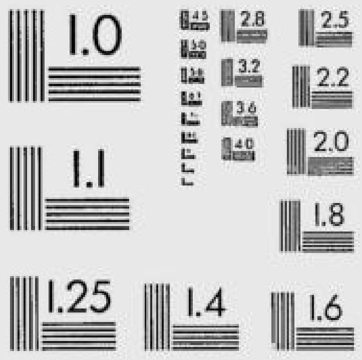
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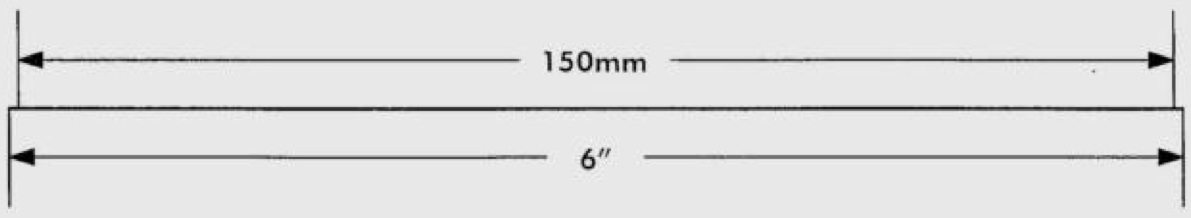

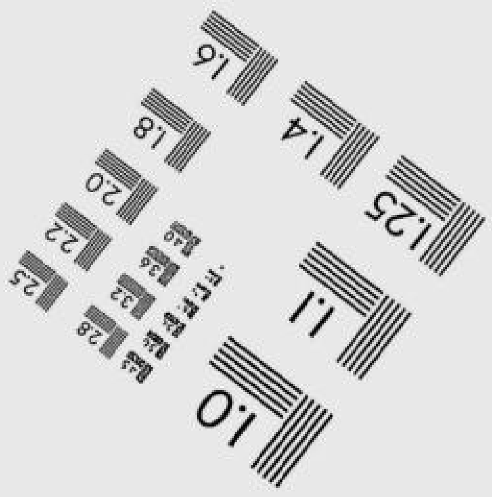
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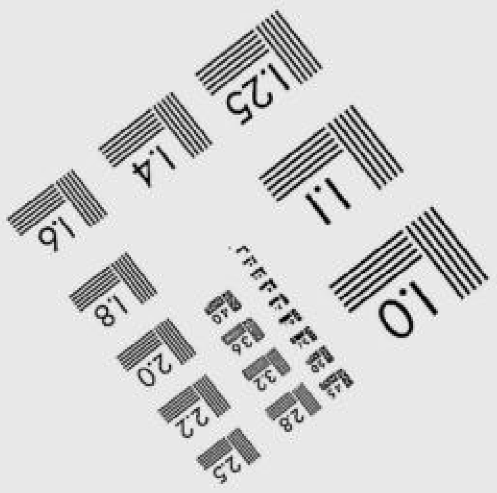
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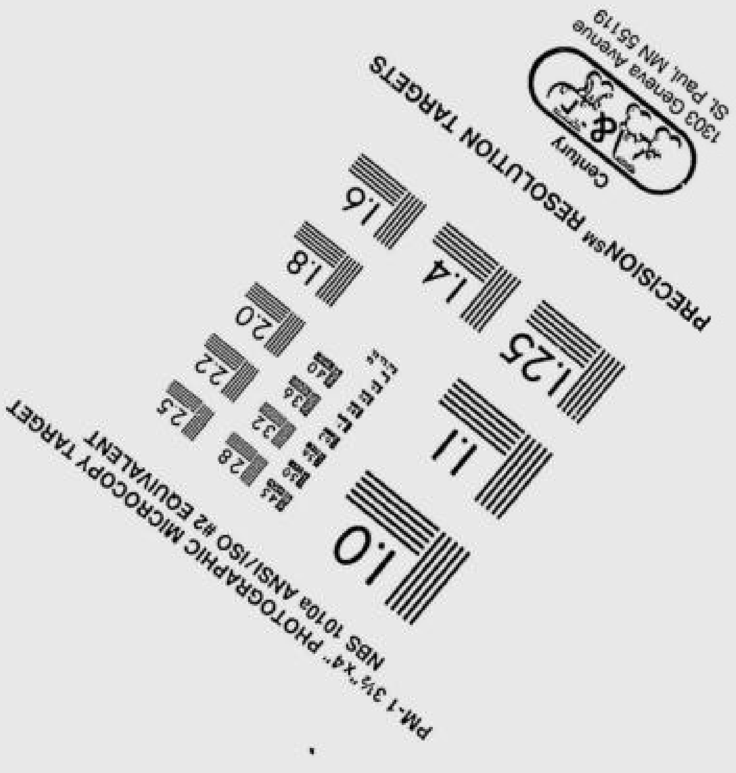
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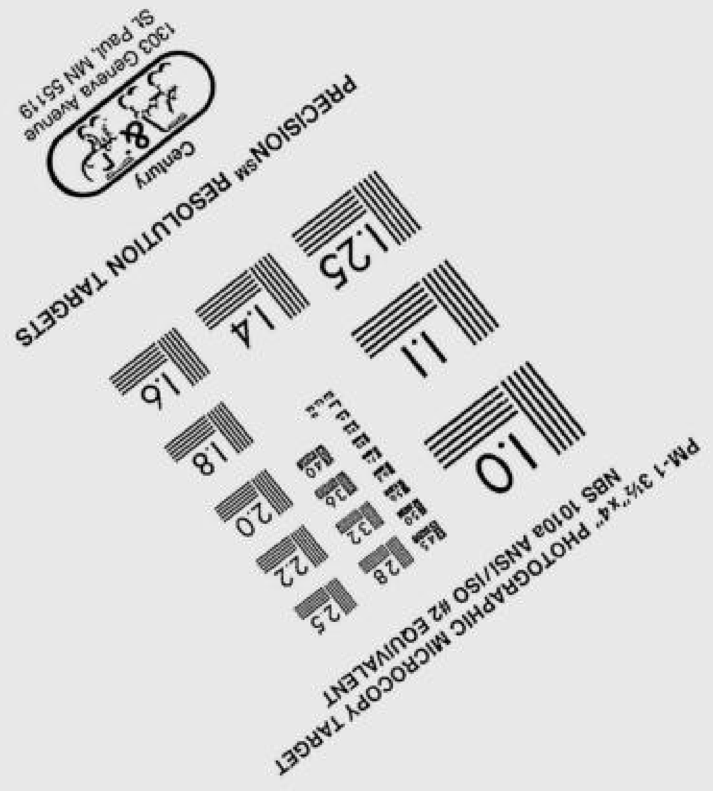
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